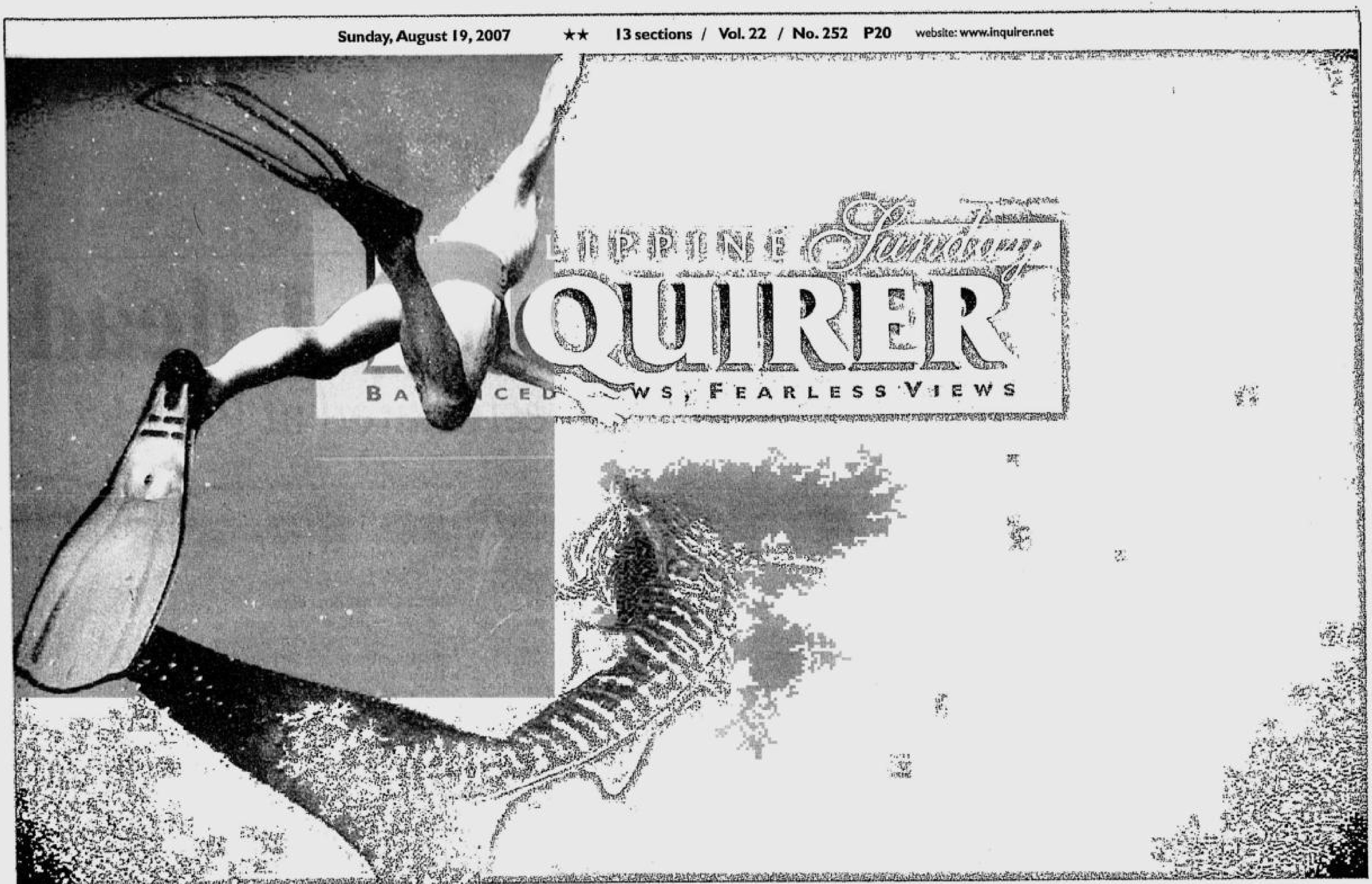
Sunday, August 19, 2007 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 252 P20 website: www.inquirer.net

LIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BA ICED WS, FEARLESS VIEWS



PICTURE PERFECT: BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year (2002) Duncan Murrell was startled by the sight of a giant fish gliding underneath him heading for the surface in Puerto Princesa Bay last week. It was a 20-foot whale shark that seemed to be working in cahoots with a swarm of tuna as it was herding a school of tiny jacks into a killing zone for the tuna to feast on just below the water surface.

15 Marines die in battle

'The fallen fought hard until they captured Abu camp'

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao
and Alcuin Papa

ZAMBOANGA CITY—"THEY were very brave even in the face of death," a local town mayor said of the Marine officers who fell while leading an attack by government troops on a major encampment of the extremist Abu Sayyaf on Basilan island early yesterday.

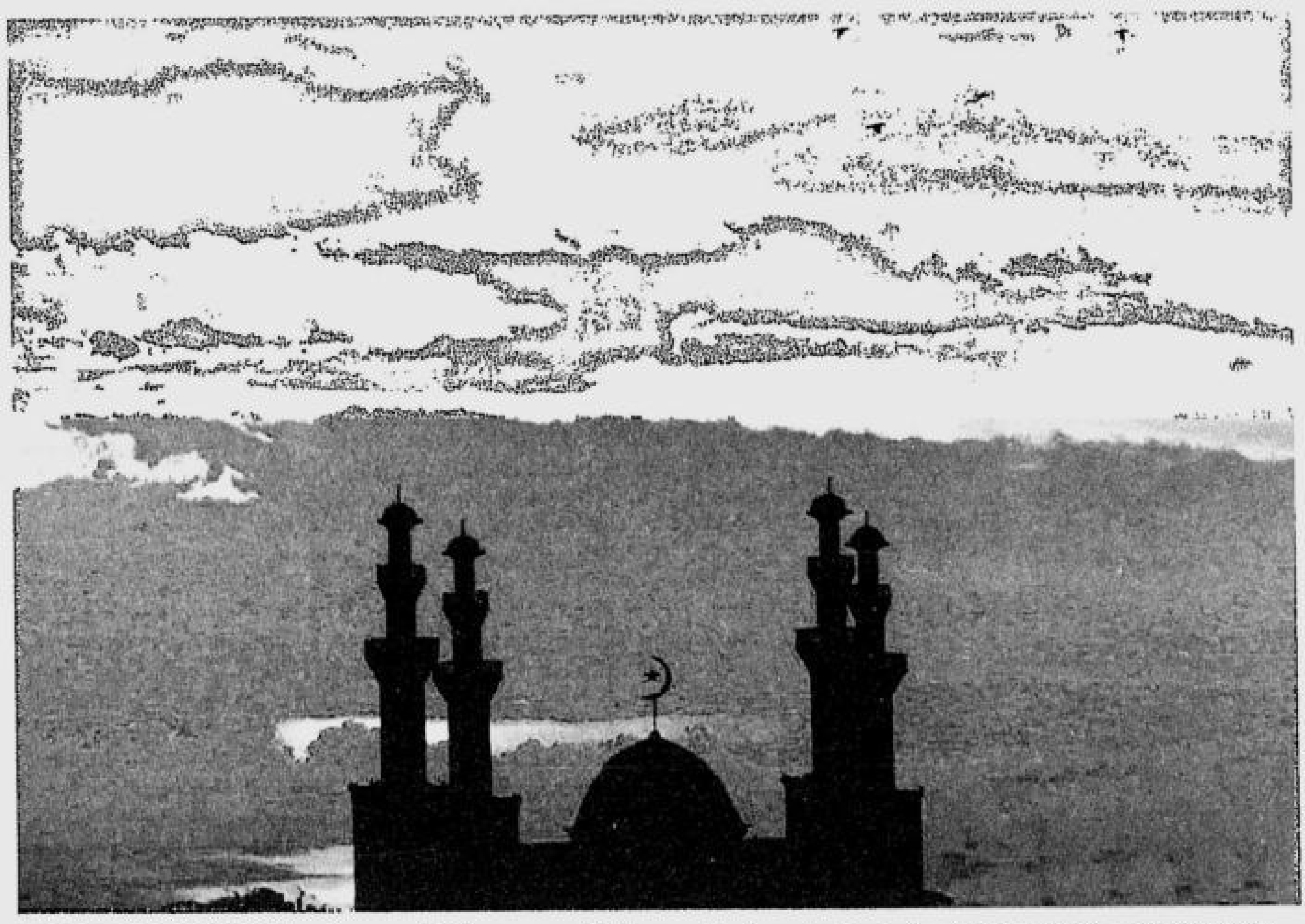
Five officers and 10 enlisted men died in almost nine hours of close-quarters combat which ended with the Abu Sayyaf camp in Silangkum, Ungkaya Pukan, being taken by government forces.

A helicopter gunship pilot was also killed.

"Nobody moved back. Even when they were already wounded, they continued the assault. Their lives were not wasted," said Ungkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan, who led a reinforcement group of 40 militiamen.

"The Marines' display of unwavering gallantry in this engagement is commendable. In the face of danger they did not waver. Their dedication to accomplish their

15 MARINES/ A4



PILLARS OF SERENITY: On the ground, Jolo teems with the sounds of war but its skyline is defined by the serenity of the Masjid Tulay mosque towering above the residential and commercial structures in the heart of downtown. EDWIN BACASMAS

Palawan, too, is home to butanding

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—THE WAters of Puerto Bay were so calm that morning early last week, it was as if a thin layer of soft tissue had blanketed the entire delta as the sun pierced the horizon.

Julie Danag, a boat skipper, scanned the blue waters looking for signs of bird activity that could signal a fish feeding frenzy.

From a distance, he spotted a small fleet of tuna fishermen, instinctively cranked the boat's engine and raced toward the area as his guests, award-winning wildlife photographer Duncan Murrell, along with an Englishman and a Greek hobbyist, got ready to enter the water with snorkels and fins and armed with an expensive underwater camera.

In less than a minute, Murrell and his companions watched—enthralled—as a swarm of hungry tuna feasted on a school of tiny jacks.

PALAWAN/ A8

DA MOST UNDESIRABLE NA TAO SA CABINET!

Gabby Claudio: Now left-leaning and all screwed up

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEFT-LEANING, CROOKED AND ALL screwed up.

This was how the President's political adviser, Gabriel "Gabby" Claudio, was described by his doctors after spinal surgery last week.

GABBY/ A4

Stranger's poem moves steely Edita Burgos to tears

By Leila B. Salaverria

SHE HAS BEEN COLDLY SEARCHING for her missing son Jonas, but after reading a poem by a stranger on the other side of the globe, Edita Burgos allowed the tears to fall.

The poem, especially written for her in Filipino and sent by e-mail, cracked the composed facade that Burgos has chosen to maintain as she keeps her 37-year-old son's disappearance on the public radar and, at the same time, helps in the search for other missing

STRANGER'S/ A8

Management Man of the Year is 'every woman's impossible dream'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NEITHER RAIN NOR FLOOD COULD keep some of the country's top business executives from honoring one of their own.

Much of Metro Manila was under water on Aug. 15 when the INQUIRER hosted a testimonial dinner in honor of Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, the Ayala Corp. chair and CEO, who was named Management Man of the Year for 2006 by the Management Association of the Philippines.

On the side, he was dubbed "every woman's impossible dream."

According to INQUIRER president

MANAGEMENT/ A4

RP seas may hold key to cancer cure

By Tessa R. Salazar
Science/Health

IF A FILIPINO SCIENTIST'S RESEARCH on venomous sea snails has led to the production of a drug 1,000 times more powerful than morphine, it's not far-fetched for the study of sea sponges by other Filipino scientists to be the springboard for a cure for cancer.

The world's largest concentration of marine life is found in the Philippines, according to American ichthyologist and marine biologist Dr. Kent Carpenter. And Filipino scientists consider this marine biodiversity, including microorganisms and terrestrial plants, a wellspring of possible anticancer compounds and sources of antibiotics and other medications for various diseases.

"We have a biodiversity that's unparalleled all over the world. [From here] we can find new antibiotics and new high-value drugs," said Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D., who was presented to the media by the Philippine Council for

RP SEAS/ A8

JOB Market
Choose right career path

Up close and personal: How top pros shoot portraits

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Danish home entertainment leader comes to Manila, offers audio/video products
LIFESTYLE / C1

Media watchdog lauds Inquirer coverage of '07 elections for, among other things, 'exerting extra' effort to include independent/party-list groups, issues
NEWS / A2

100 'Ramons' to plant 100,000 trees in honor of Magsaysay
NEWS / A9

EZ2
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SIX DIGIT
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Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
6 7 6 | 1 2 2
(All in exact order)

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes and Babuyan group of islands and Ilocos Norte will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough. The western sections of Luzon will have monsoon rains while the rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Gusty Winds	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/08/18/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

'Egay' exits, leaves only 1 dead

Initial crop, infrastructure damage estimated at P20M

By Alcuin Papa, TJ Burgonio and Julie M. Aurelio

TYPHOON "EGAY" YESTERDAY WEAKENED and exited the Philippine area of responsibility, moving in the direction of Taiwan and southern China after unleashing heavy rains with gusty winds over extreme northern Luzon, leaving in its wake one person dead, thousands evacuated from their homes and millions of pesos worth of infrastructure and crops destroyed.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said yesterday Egay damaged P15.9 million worth of crops and P4.3 million worth of infrastructure.

More than 380,000 people were affected by flooding, with more than 1,800—mainly in the province of Pampanga—evacuated from their homes. A bridge in Tarlac and another in Occidental Mindoro were destroyed.

In Laguna, the body of one of two fishermen who went missing on Wednesday was recovered from Laguna lake on Saturday.

Police identified the victim as Jesus Rebong, 48, a resident of Barangay San Roque, Victoria town.

The NDCC said 389,642 persons, or 81,638 families, in 313 barangays, seven cities and 34 municipalities in 10 provinces in the National Capital Region, the Cordillera Administrative Region, Regions 1, 3, 4-A and 4-B were affected by Egay.

Malabon under water

In Metro Manila, floodwaters had subsided but some parts of Malabon remained under two to three feet of water.

As it moved northwest toward China at 11 kph, the typhoon's maximum sustained winds slackened to 120 kph, and its gustiness waned to 150 kph, the weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said that as of 5 p.m. Saturday, storm signal No. 1 remained in effect over the Batanes and the Babuyan groups of islands and Ilocos Norte.

Southeastern China

The typhoon is forecast to be 540 km north northwest of Basco, Batanes, or in the vicinity of southeastern China this morning.

Throughout Saturday, heavy rains with gusty winds prevailed over Batanes, Babuyan and the Calayan groups of islands, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan and Abra, according to Pagasa.

Central and southern Luzon and Metro Manila, on the other hand, experienced occasional rains.

As it exits, moderate to heavy rains would be felt in the extreme northern Luzon today, Pagasa weather forecaster Manny Mendoza said.

Rains to prevail

Occasional rains, meanwhile, would prevail in the western section of Central and southern Luzon and Metro Manila today, Mendoza said.

The Philippine National Police yesterday deployed disaster response teams to assist in rescue, evacuation and relief operations in areas affected by Egay.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. said teams from the PNP Disaster Incident Management Task Group (DIMTG) were sent to parts of Rizal province and the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Malabon and Navotas) area.

The teams were supported by seven 6x6 trucks, amphibious recovery vehicles, inflatable boats, ambulances, power tools and tow trucks.

Guard against hoarders

In major urban centers, local police will coordinate with local representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry to monitor the prices of basic commodities and guard against hoarders, profiteers and unscrupulous traders.

In Muntinlupa City, around 27 families were evacuated from their homes in Barangays Tunasan and Cupang Friday night as Laguna de Bay's waters spilled over to residential areas.

Some parts of the cities of Pasay, Parañaque, Makati, Taguig, Manila, Malabon, Valenzuela and Quezon were also flooded.

State of calamity

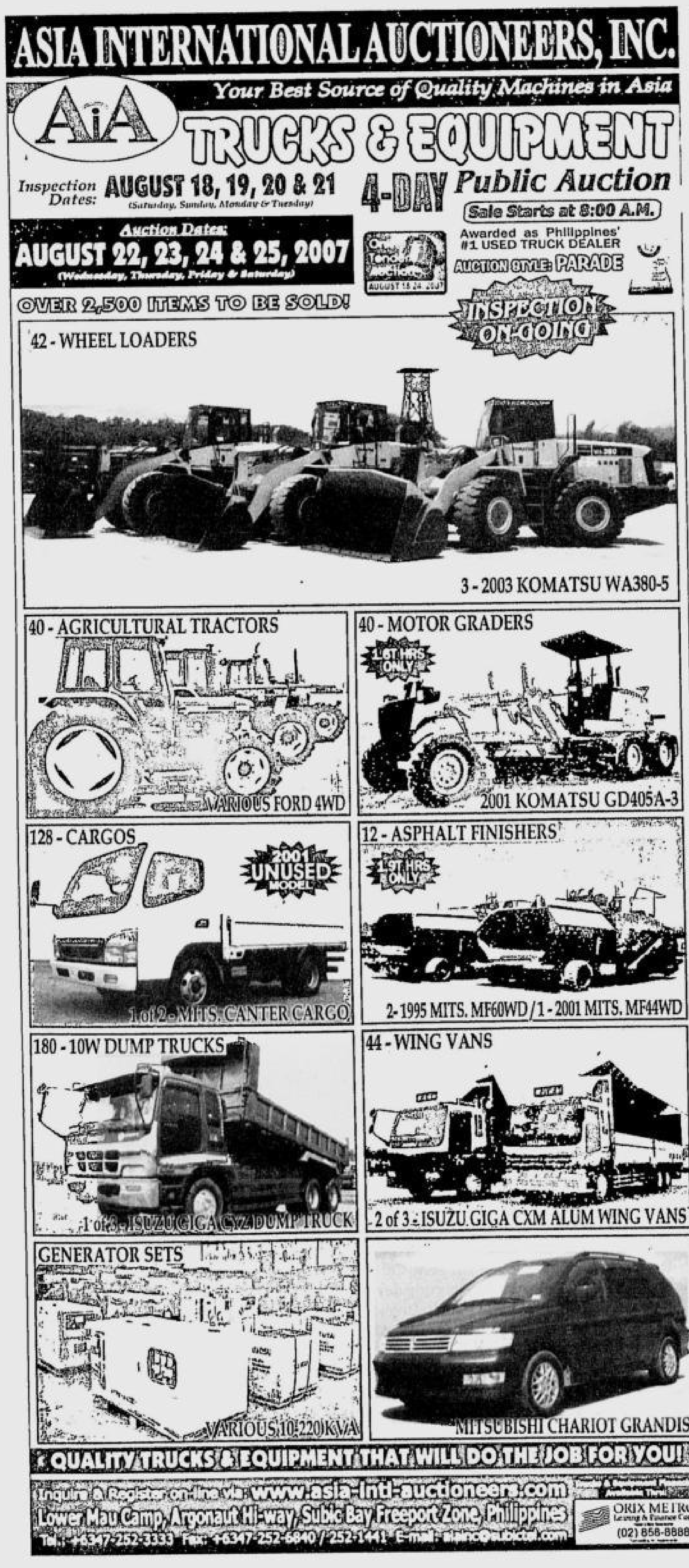
On Friday, Pateros Mayor Jaime Medina declared a state of calamity after floodwaters failed to subside after 10 days.

Around 350 families, or more than 1,500 individuals, evacuated their homes as floodwaters inundated at least 20 villages in the provinces of Rizal, Batangas, Laguna and Cavite on Thursday.

More flooding

The rains caused floods in at least seven towns and a city in Bulacan, nine villages in Abucay, Bataan; two villages in Cabangan, Zambales, and three barangays in San Felipe, Zambales.

Some 136 villages in 12 of 20 towns in Pampanga were also submerged under two to four feet of water. *With reports from Marlon Ramos and Romulo O. Ponte, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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Media watchdog lauds PDI's election coverage

By Fe B. Zamora

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER has been hailed for "providing readers a platform to learn and understand" the crucial issues and policies in the May elections by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR), which tracked media coverage of the 2007 polls.

In its report, the CMFR also lauded the INQUIRER for exerting "extra effort" in broadening its coverage by including independent candidates belonging to small parties and the party-list groups.

The CMFR report, which was presented by Luis Teodoro, a journalism professor at the University of the Philippines, also cited the INQUIRER for having the "least number of biased reports," saying researchers found only 25 "slanted" articles out of 191 articles monitored.

The CMFR said the Manila Bulletin was "the least neutral" citing its findings that 95 of 274 articles the organization monitored were slanted.

The Bulletin also had 50 "negatively slanted stories," it said, while the INQUIRER had 49 and the Philippine Star 28.

The CMFR analyzed a total of 578 reports on the national elections on the pages of the INQUIRER, Manila Bulletin and Philippine Star during the period of Feb. 14 to May 13.

It said the Manila Bulletin published the "most number of Senate election-related articles" at 259, followed by the INQUIRER and the Star with 147 and 96, respectively.

The CMFR said the INQUIRER also had the biggest number of stories on the party-list elections and was the only paper "consistently covering" the nontraditional political party "Ang Kapatiran."

The CMFR report said the broadsheets devoted most of their front page space on stories from the campaign trail, followed by stories on development and policy issues. But Teodoro noted that the INQUIRER had the "most extensive coverage on development issues."

Teodoro said the INQUIRER also published on its front page analyses of several election issues. These were written by Winston Marbella, chief executive of the Center for Policy Research and Strategic Studies, and Amando Doronila, a columnist for the paper.

"To its credit, the INQUIRER featured the positions of the senatorial candidates on crucial development and policy issues in its Talk of the Town section. Readers were thus able to read about the platforms of the candidates and their views on issues, such as the antidynasty law and the importation of low-priced medicine," the CMFR said.

The INQUIRER also devoted three pages to an election handbook for the board of election inspectors and guidelines for poll watchers, reporters, observers, and voters. The INQUIRER "should be lauded for providing readers a platform to learn and understand these issues," the CMFR said.

The CMFR also said the paper should be "credited for airing the grievances of the Tagnaya Bataks," an indigenous community in Palawan that had been neglected by the government.

The media watchdog's monitoring teams were composed of 46 journalism student volunteers and interns from the UP, St. Scholastica's College and Far Eastern University. Teodoro and UP College of Mass Communication professor Danilo Arao supervised the teams.

Gov't to seek longer term for int'l ceasefire monitors

TO SHOW THE GOVERNMENT'S determination at forging a peace agreement with Muslim insurgents, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs to undertake diplomatic initiatives to extend the life of the Malaysian-led international monitoring team on the ceasefire.

The IMT, whose mandate ends next month, oversees the ceasefire between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. *(See related story in Across the Nation on Page A15.)*

In a speech during the 109th anniversary of the DFA last week, the President said extending the life of the monitoring body would keep the peace process on track.

The peace talks with the MILF resume in Kuala Lumpur on Aug. 22.

Ms Arroyo said the country's good foreign relations had contributed not only to the fight against poverty but also in the pursuit of peace and progress in Mindanao.

"Foreign relations are an instrument in our vision to lift the Philippines to the status of a developed country in 20 years. And Asean [the Association of Southeast Asian Nations], among other economic and trade platforms, provides the opportunity for economies to work together to lift up our poor not just in the Philippines but all over the region," she said.

In a statement, Malacañang said the extension was crucial in ensuring stability on the ground while the peace negotiations were ongoing.

The presence of the peace monitors in the country had prevented the escalation of some conflicts and strengthened the implementation of the agreement on the cessation of hostilities forged in July 2003, it said.

The DFA has been asked to use its expertise in international relations to help out in three areas: Laying the groundwork for the extension of the IMT mandate; holding of urgent talks with the MILF to keep the peace process going, and keeping the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Committee of the Eight posted on ongoing developments in Mindanao.

"It is now up to the DFA to exercise our diplomatic initiative and persuasiveness to try to have the mandate of the IMT extended before it expires next month," the President said.

During the DFA anniversary and recognition night, the President bestowed the Lakandula Award with the Rank of Grand Cross on Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia.

She conferred the Sikatuna Award with the Rank of Datu on Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr., chief presidential protocol officer and secretary general of the Asean National Organizing Committee.

Michael Lim Ubac

Gov't to jail vehicle smugglers, GMA vows

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER TURNING THE LUXURY CARS INTO scrap metal, the government will now run after their smugglers and put them behind bars.

President Macapagal-Arroyo gave this assurance as she defended her decision to destroy the 18 cars to send a strong signal that her administration would not tolerate smuggling, instead of auctioning them off.

Some sectors criticized the President's decision as a waste of potential revenue. Some lawmakers said she should have auctioned off the imported cars so the money could be used for the government's programs.

"Crushing smuggled cars doesn't mean that we are quashing the cases filed against those who tried to bring them in illegally," the President said in a statement.

She said the prosecution of the unnamed smugglers would be "pursued in earnest."

"They will not be allowed to redeem other cars that may be auctioned off through their paid proxies. Not only will they be barred from future auctions, they will be put behind bars," Ms Arroyo said.

Two weeks ago, the President ordered the destruction of smuggled luxury cars instead of auctioning them off as was the usual practice.

Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde, who disclosed Ms Arroyo's order after a command conference at the Bureau of Customs, said the President wanted to stop the auction of smuggled cars since they still ended up in the smugglers' hands.

Remonde said Ms Arroyo wanted to send a strong signal against smuggling by ordering the destruction of some P100 million worth of smuggled luxury cars. Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group chief Antonio Villar then said the cars that were to be destroyed included a Lamborghini, a Ferrari, a Porsche Carrera, a Porsche Cayenne and a BMW, which he said had all been smuggled through the Subic Freeport Zone.

On Ms Arroyo's orders, 18 smuggled cars were destroyed with giant backhoes last Thursday at the Naval Supply Depot at Subic. But the truly high-end cars were spared.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves later explained that importers of the luxury cars decided to avail themselves of the legal process to recover their flashy vehicles.

Of the 18 cars destroyed, only seven were luxury vehicles—a two-door Mitsubishi GTO, three BMW X5s, one BMW 35i, one Lincoln Navigator and a Chevrolet Starcraft van. The rest were a Toyota Lucida, five Toyota Emina, two Hyundai Grandeur, one Toyota Estima, a Nissan Serena and a Mitsubishi Pajero Junior.

Teves said the destruction of the 18 cars cost the government P30 million in lost auction proceeds and P10 million in taxes.

Ms Arroyo, however, failed to witness the destruction of the smuggled cars due to problems with the presidential helicopter which prevented her from flying to Subic from the nearby Clark Freeport Zone where she had spent the night.

Her back-up chopper reportedly also had mechanical trouble. The President instead went to her hometown of Lubao in Pampanga before motoring back to Manila.

Cops, lawyers sue for reward

By Alcuin Papa

A GROUP OF LAWYERS AND RETIRED POlice officers filed on Thursday graft charges against Bureau of Customs chief Napoleon Morales and Department of Budget and Management Assistant Secretary Evelyn Guerrero before the Ombudsman for their failure to give them a P30 million reward for the recovery of smuggled items in 1989.

Retired Senior Supts. Romeo Pimentel and Ruben Zacarias, retired Insp. Romeo Cudia, Senior Supt. Gil Meneses and lawyer Virgilio Pablico lamented the destruction of 18 smuggled cars in Subic last week, saying customs should have sold the cars and paid them the P30 million.

"They should have sold the cars and paid us. The reason for their refusal to give us our just reward is unknown to us but known to them," Cudia said.

They said Morales and Guerrero prevented them from collecting their reward for busting an illegal shipment on board the MV Star Ace.

On Jan. 17, 1989, the Star Ace was unloading an illegal shipment of rubber, oil and steel from Indonesia worth P150 million when the five officers seized the shipment at Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union.

But through the years, the government failed to give them the reward. Their request for the P30 million was denied twice by the Department of Finance.

The officers brought their complaint to the Office of the President. On April 3, 2007, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita approved payment of the reward.

But on May 7, 2007, Guerrero denied the officers the reward, saying payment "is premised on additional revenues which are generated and deposited with the (Bureau of Treasury) as a result of the discovery by the informer."

In an interview, Cudia said their reward could be taken from the BOC's savings, from current tax and revenue collections of customs or the sale of recovered luxury vehicles.

Because of the refusal of Guerrero and Morales to give them the reward, the officers filed a case of violation of Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and Republic Act No. 6713, or the Ethical Standards for Government Employees, against them.

Quezon birthday marked

THE NATION OBserves today the 129th birth anniversary of the first president of the Commonwealth and "Ama ng Wikang Pambansa" (Father of the National Language) Manuel Luis Quezon.

The day is a holiday throughout the country as provided for by Republic Act No. 6741.

The National Historical Institute and Quezon City government officials will lead ceremonies at Quezon Memorial Circle on Elliptical Road in Diliman at 8 a.m.

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus will be guest of honor and speaker.

In Intramuros, the Colegio de San Juan de Letran will remember one of its foremost alumni who used to take his birthday breakfast every year with the priests of Letran, a tradition carried on to this day by the Letran fathers and the Quezon family.

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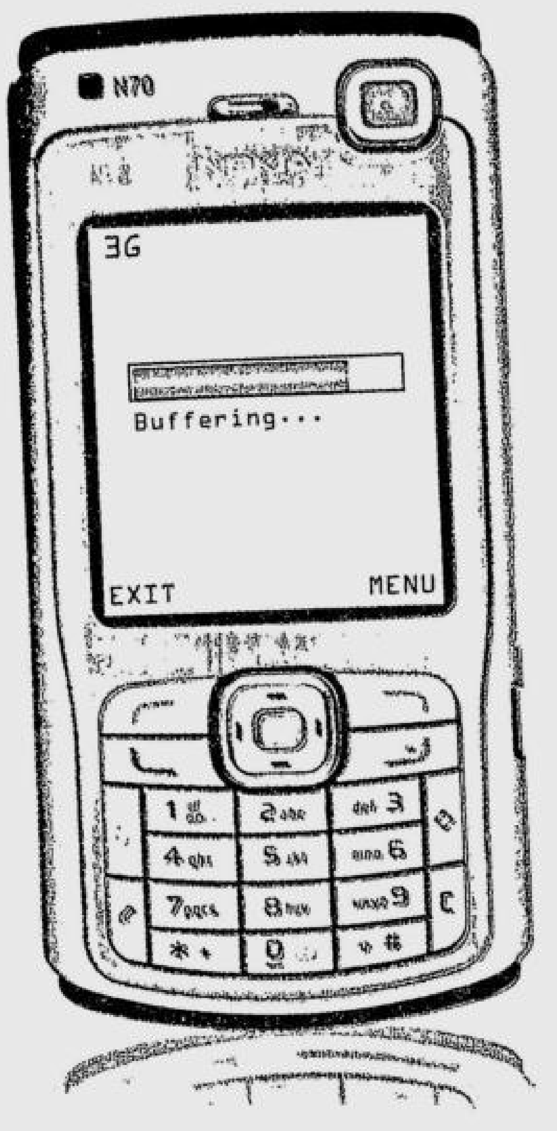

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360media
SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

15 Marines die in latest Basilan battle

From page A1

mission prevailed over any other consideration," said Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Bartolome Bacarro.

Nine soldiers were also wounded in the day-long fighting that ended only at 5 p.m. when an Air Force helicopter providing air support crashed near Al-Barka town (formerly Tipo-Tipo).

The helicopter pilot died in the crash, adding one more to the military's casualty list. Two crew members were injured.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said the aircraft was not fired upon nor was it hit by enemy fire.

The military claimed that between 30 to 42 Abu Sayyaf were killed but only four bodies were recovered.

Enemy surrounded

According to police and military sources, there were two clashes involved.

Bacarro said the Marines "initiated the contact." He said the Marines had been tracking the Abu Sayyaf group and managed to surround the bandits at their camp in Sitio Kurellem, Silangkum, before the firefight began.

A second clash involved elements of the 31st Marine Company, who were serving as blocking forces, and who engaged Abu Sayyaf bandits coming from Barangay Baguindan in Al-Barka.

A GMA television reporter close to the scene said troops, tanks and helicopters were rushing to the area. Gunfire could still be heard in the background as he reported from the area at about 12:30 p.m.

Maturan, who was at the site at the head of some 40 militiamen, described the fighting as very intense and the slain officers as very brave.

He said one of the Marine officers even told some militiamen, who were acting as guides, to stay behind when the raid began.

Abu on high ground

"They did not use the militiamen as guides anymore. They continued the assault even if they knew they were at a disadvantaged position," Maturan said, explaining that the Abu Sayyaf camp was on high ground.

"The fallen officers and soldiers fought hard until they were able to seize the Abu Sayyaf camp in Silangkum," Batara said.

Brig. Gen. Edgardo Gurrea, chief of the government's ceasefire monitoring team, said they were able to consolidate the MILF forces in an area far from the clashes so there was no danger the separatist group would be drawn into the fighting.

Sattar Alih, who represents the MILF in the local ceasefire monitoring team, said some of the projectiles from the shelling landed near an MILF camp. He said he had asked the military to avoid Baguindan as "we have forces in that place." Alih also said he could hardly penetrate Baguindan, located between the towns of Tipo-Tipo central and Al-Barka because of heavy artillery from the military.

"The enemy suffered a lot of casualties. We are still trying to get the exact number but their casualties are heavy," said Maj. Eugene Batara, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command.

Two of the bodies were later identified as Abu Sayyaf leader Umair Indama, alias Abu Jihad, and Alimari Amirul.

Bacarro said Indama was a suspect in the beheading of 10 Marines who were among the 14 killed in an ambush in Al-Barka town last July 10.

The ambush was blamed on the Abu Sayyaf and members of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which is negotiating peace with the government brokered by Malaysia.

The MILF admitted to ambushing the Marines, saying they had entered rebel territory without prior coordination, but denied having mutilated the soldiers.

Lask week 27 Army soldiers and 32 Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed in separate clashes in Jolo.

Bloodiest since July 10

Yesterday's incident was the bloodiest clash on Basilan since the July 10 ambush, and the first since the government began pouring forces into the island for an offensive against the perpetrators of the beheadings.

Bacarro said the operation was undertaken in coordination with the local government and the MILF.

It was not immediately clear what the MILF's involvement in the fighting was.

Bacarro and Batara declined to identify the fallen soldiers, but a military source was able to give some of the names.

Casualty list

He said the officers were Lieutenants Salvador Leoperas, Eugene Piñera, Ermin Soloren and Roldan Samera.

Soloren, who was a native of Sto. Niño, South Cotabato, ranked 9th of the top 10 graduates of the Philippine Military Academy's Mandala Class of 2006. *(See sidebar on this page.)*

Piñera was from Upi, Maguindanao, while Samera was from Zamboanga.

The other slain soldiers were identified as Privates First Class Baroy, Pedroso, Semeros, Jovie, Tayaban, Migras, Lagbigan and Torres.

The source said reports indicated nine other soldiers were wounded—Corporals Mandili, Bocol and De la Rama, Pfcs. Labañez, Dagatan, and Orell, and Pvts. Canoigan, Claro and Domingo.

A member of the militia, the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), identified as Henry Villalobos, was also wounded. *With a report from Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

Being a soldier was his dream

KORONADAL, SOUTH COTABATO—HE liked to play at military drills when he was a young boy and would tell his parents and relatives he would one day become a soldier.

"He wanted to become a soldier. That was his dream," Ricarte Domingo said of his relative Ermin Soloren.

In 2006, Soloren finally fulfilled his dream. He ranked 9th in the Philippine Military Academy's Mandirigma ng Dangal ng Lahi (Mandala) Class.

Soloren, who was from Sto. Niño town, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Philippine Marine Corps.

Only 22

The dream ended yesterday when enemy bullets hit him and several others during clashes in Ungkaya Pukan in Basilan. He was only 22.

Domingo described Soloren as "a good and responsible man."

"But he was the silent type. When he arrived home from school, he rarely spoke," Domingo said in a phone interview.

Relatives described Soloren as a "very studious child."

Domingo said he was an avid reader of newspapers and books.

He was salutatorian of his grade school class and also graduated with honors from the Notre Dame of Marbel High School.

Before he entered the PMA, Soloren was enrolled in a civil engineering course at the Mapua Institute of Technology in Manila. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Gabby Claudio: Now left-leaning and all screwed up

From page A1

The 52-year-old Claudio underwent a surgical procedure called a decompressive laminectomy "to release entrapped spinal nerves" and an instrumented fusion "to stabilize the lower spine using titanium implants," said his twin brother, Dr. Rafael Claudio.

Dr. Claudio, the chair of Medical City's orthopedics department, was head of the surgical team that conducted one of the most advanced surgical procedures for spinal defects for five-and-a-half hours on Aug. 8.

Claudio had previous surgeries in 1976 to correct the congenital scoliosis of the lumbar spine and in 1977 and 1978 for treatment of an ensuing chronic osteomylitis (bone infection).

Interviewed by the INQUIRER before he was released from the hospital on Wednesday, Claudio himself poked fun at his condition.

"You know, doctors tell me that I have to be the most undesirable member of the President's Cabinet. I'm now spineless, left-leaning and crooked," he quipped, revealing that his spine leaned toward the left.

"And I'm all screwed up" he added, after doctors attached two titanium implants to his spine.

President's Men

His protégé and former No. 2 man, Subic Bay Freeport board director Ray Roquero, butted in: "Welcome to the robotic member of the President's Cabinet."

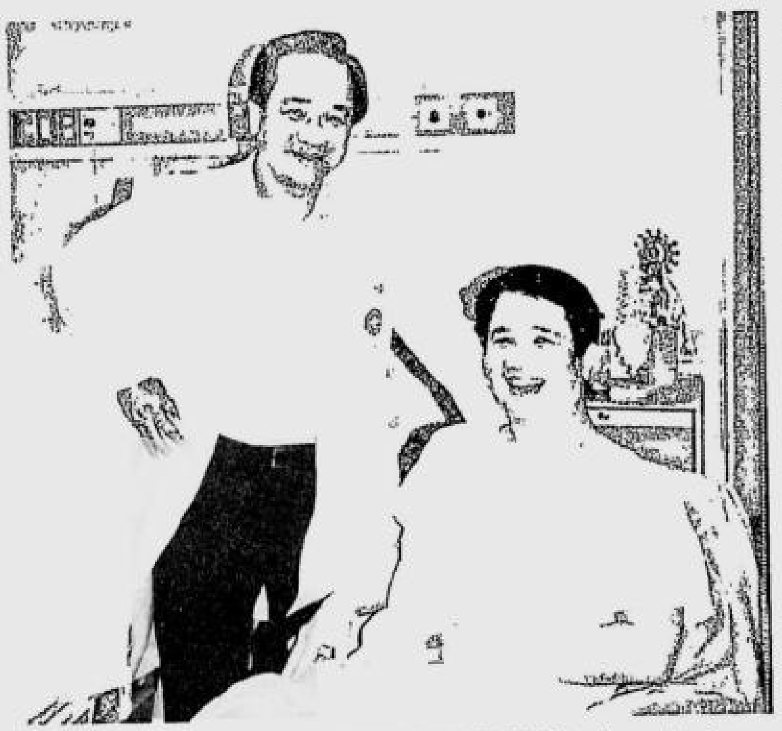
Claudio is the latest in the list of Cabinet officials who have fallen ill while working for a workaholic President, which includes then Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, his successor Alberto Romulo, then Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, Presidential Management Staff head Cerge Remonde, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

In June last year, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself was admitted to St. Luke's Medical Center for what doctors said were acute stomach pains. The following month, she returned to the hospital for treatment of the flu.

Before assuming his current post, Claudio headed the Presidential Legislative-Liaison Office from 2001 to 2004.

Growing pains

"There was renewed instability and nerve compression in the upper lumbar section that had been causing me severe lower back pains," Claudio said, pointing out that doctors needed to operate to stabilize and decompress the areas affected by the congenital scoliosis of the lumbar spine, among other spinal maladies.



WILL THE REAL GABBY CLAUDIO STAND UP? But he can't after an operation to released entrapped spinal nerves by a team led by his identical twin, Dr. Rafael Claudio at Medical City. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Claudio, dressed in a hospital gown, took it upon himself to explain his medical condition. (His wife, Valerie, earlier showed snapshots of the entire procedure on a laptop).

Armed with a clay model of his spine, he began pointing to the different parts of the lumbar section.

Sounding like a high school science teacher, he said the lumbar spine consists of five vertebrae called L1 through L5. Below the lumbar spine, nine vertebrae at the base of the spine grow together.

According to the website www.back.com, humans are born with 33 separate vertebrae. By adulthood, most have only 24, due to the fusion of the vertebrae in certain parts of the spine during normal development.

Claudio disclosed that his L5 did not develop, a medical condition known as hem (half) vertebrae.

"It didn't grow, so it leans towards the left," he said, adding that since birth, he has had to contend with scoliosis.

Need for operation

At 20, Claudio began experiencing "extreme back pain" owing to the following conditions: Congenital scoliosis of the lumbar (lower) spine, severe spinal stenosis (impugned nerves/root compression), and instability of the upper lumbar spine.

"All of these contributed to the pain," he said.

The tension in the upper lumbar section shifted over the years to the hips because of what he called "impugned nerves at the left of L2."

The pain became intense beginning in 1999, from intermittent episodes to several days of debilitating discomfort.

For the past few months, he said "the pain was constant. From the left side of the lower back, the pain radiated all the way to the left thigh."

So he finally decided to check in for a corrective operation at Medical City.

Being identical twins, the two Claudios related stories of being mistaken for the other.

Gabby Claudio narrated an encounter with a complete stranger who profusely thanked him for the success of an operation. "Really, I said. But I want to confide to you—I'm not a doctor."

The patient's facial expression quickly turned from awe to shock.

Dr. Claudio said he, too, had been mistaken for the President's most trusted political adviser by some government officials.

Claudio couldn't stand or walk prior to last week's operation.

So when he woke up an hour after surgery, "by instinct I checked the side where I had felt pain. It was amazingly and almost miraculously completely gone."

The procedure was so advanced, Claudio was walking in a week's time.

Asked when he would go back to work, Claudio turned to his brother who said he should recuperate at home a few months.

It would take four to six months "for the bone fusion to happen and mature," Dr. Claudio said.

"But I only asked for a month's leave from the President," Claudio said. "We're still haggling about that."

Management Man of the Year . . .

From page A1

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, the MAP Management Man of the Year is the only business figure that the INQUIRER honors every year, in keeping with the paper's "high standards."

Publisher Isagani Yambot said Zobel was being honored not because the Ayala Group stood by the INQUIRER during its darkest hour when the paper was hit by an advertising boycott instigated by deposed President Joseph Estrada, but because he has demonstrated "outstanding management ability in the Ayala Group."

Yambot also cited Zobel's commitment to philanthropy, education, entrepreneurship and the protection of the environment, through his involvement in the National Council of the World Wildlife Fund, Center for Public Elementary Education and the Harvard University Asia Center Advisory Committee, among others.

It remained for the EBiz group's Evelyn Singson, immediate past president of MAP, to round off Zobel's achievements.

Speaking off the cuff, Singson said that because of his charm and unassuming and humble ways, the extremely good-looking Zobel also deserved the title of "every woman's impossible dream."

In his response, Zobel described himself as just the latest "cog in the wheel" of the venerable 174-year-old Ayala Corp.

As such, the honor belonged not just to him but to the group, and the many men and women who make up its heritage, he said.

He thanked his father, Jaime, who was himself MAP Management Man of the Year in 1987, for bringing him into the company early and for building the management foundations of the Ayala Group that he represents today.

He also gave credit to his younger brother, Fernando, with whom he shares the reins of leadership of the group in an arrangement that is quite unusual for a public, private or family-owned corporations.

Zobel said there has hardly been any decision he has made for the company that did not have the participation and support of his brother, who is vice chair and COO of the flagship Ayala Corp.

The partnership will become even more crucial as the Ayala Group looks to the future and how it can respond to the needs of the country.

Best answer to fear

Zobel said that the Ayala Group as well as the members of MAP, whose assets include their reputation, talent, funds, capabilities, goodwill and innovative ideas, "have the responsibility to deploy and utilize these unique assets to maximum benefit, not just for shareholders who risk their capital, but also for the larger shared communities."

He said the challenges facing individuals, institutions and the country will only increase with time, but the Ayala Group does not fear the future but takes pride in preparing for it as best it can.

"To use [former British] Prime Minister Tony Blair's words at the recent World Economic Forum in Davos: 'The best answer to fear is always hope. But hope requires belief, and belief comes only from words turned to deeds,'" he said.

Who's who in business

Those who braved the rains to join in the tribute on Aug. 15 included Jollibee Corp. chair Tony Tan Caktiong, SGV Corp. chair David Balangue, SGV Corp. founder Washington SyCip, Ayala Corp. director Delfin L. Lazaro, Palafox Associates principal architect Felino A. Palafox Jr., First Gen Corp. chief operating officer Peter D. Garrucho Jr., Concepcion Industries CEO Raul T. Concepcion, and former Trade Secretary and former Nestlé Corp. chief Juan B. Santos.

Also present were Francisco Eizmendi of the Institute of Corporate Directors, the Phinma group's Oscar Hilado and Plantersbank chair Jesus Tambunting, Social Security System chief Corazon de la Paz, former Ayala Land president Francisco Licuanan III, and MAP president Ambassador Albert F. del Rosario.

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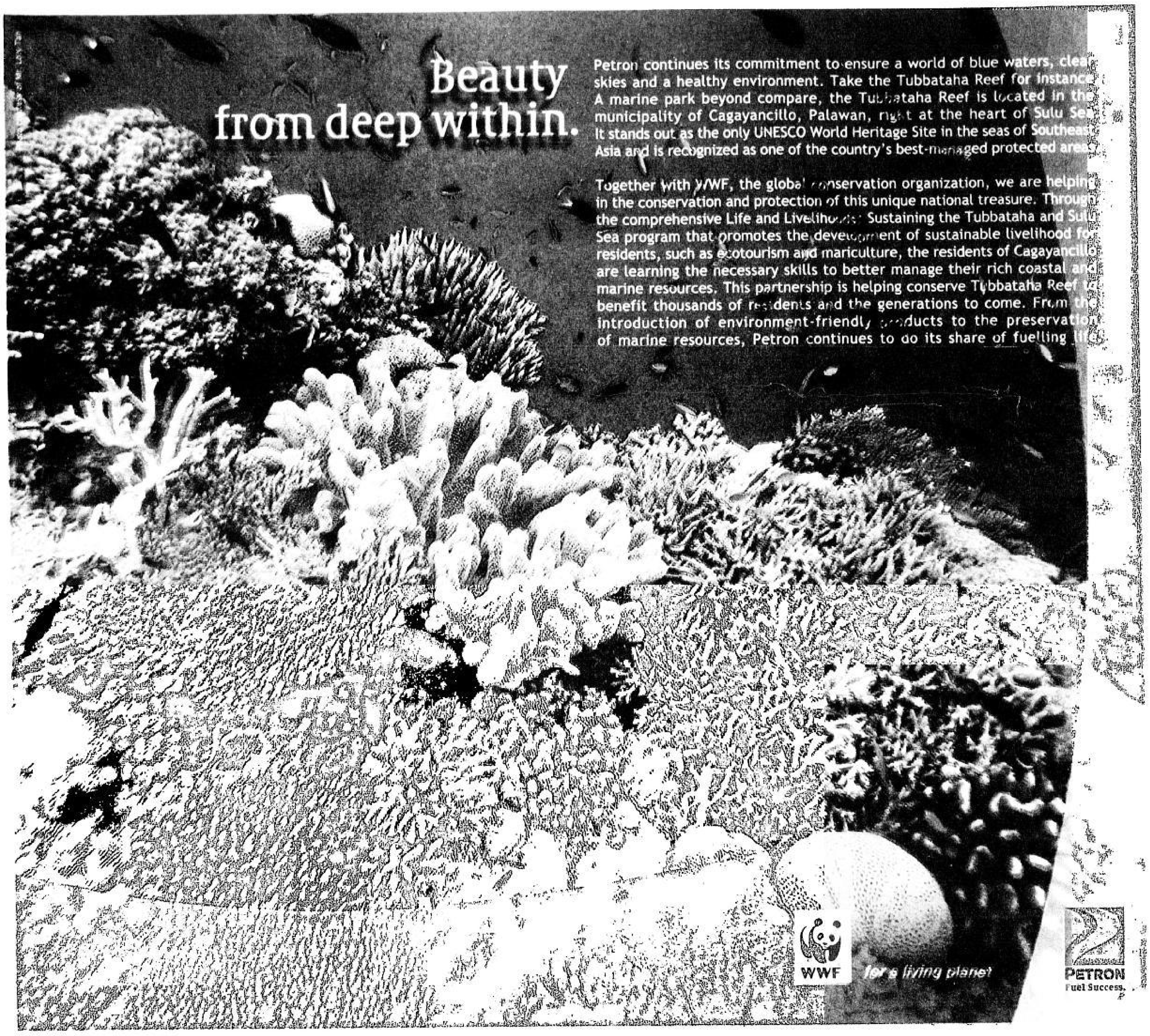
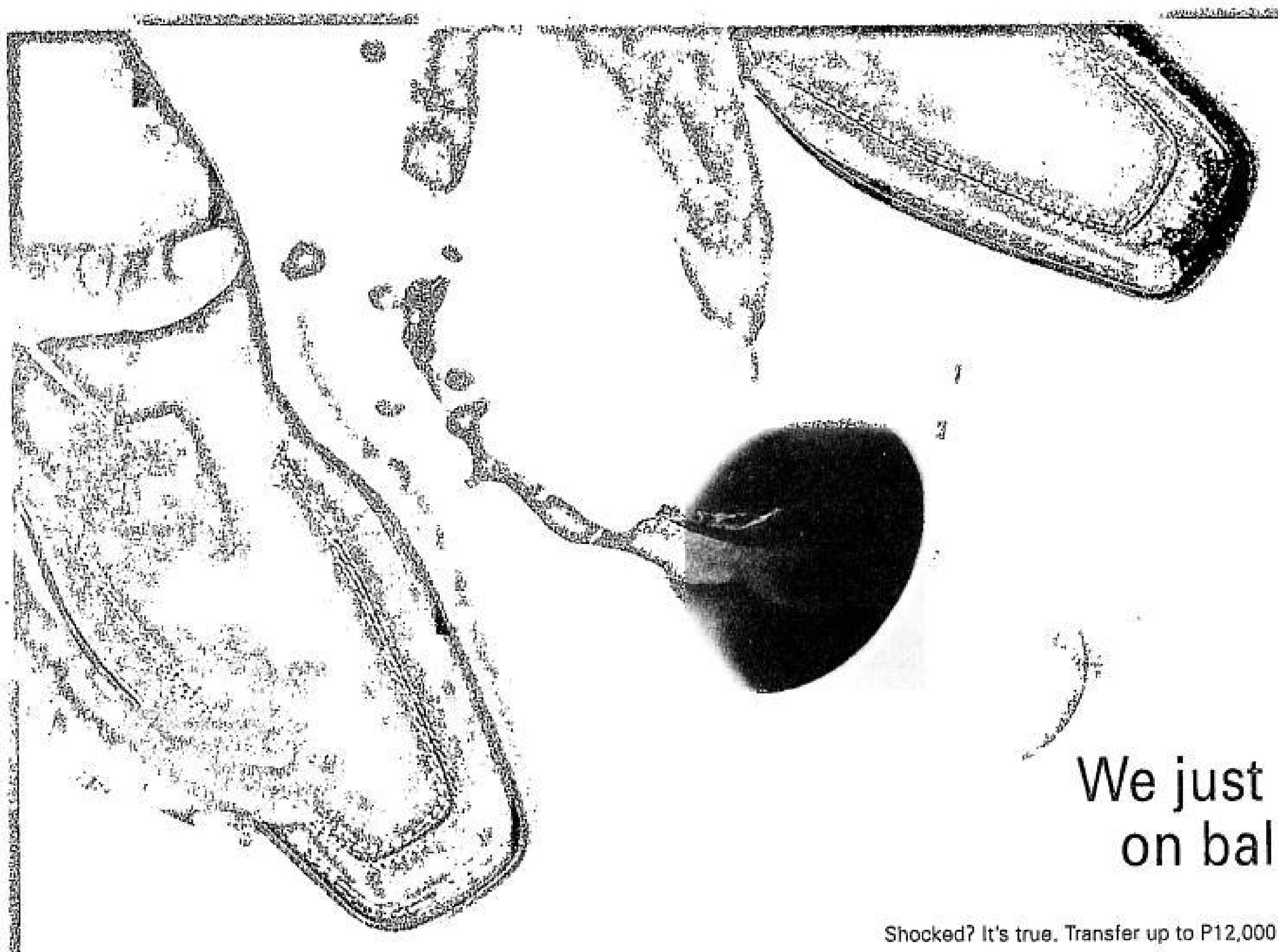


Beauty from deep within.

Petron continues its commitment to ensure a world of blue waters, clear skies and a healthy environment. Take the Tubbataha Reef for instance. A marine park beyond compare, the Tubbataha Reef is located in the municipality of Cagayancillo, Palawan, right at the heart of Sulu Sea. It stands out as the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in the seas of Southeast Asia and is recognized as one of the country's best-managed protected areas.

Together with WWF, the global conservation organization, we are helping in the conservation and protection of this unique national treasure. Through the comprehensive Life and Livelihoods: Sustaining the Tubbataha and Sulu Sea program that promotes the development of sustainable livelihood for residents, such as ecotourism and mariculture, the residents of Cagayancillo are learning the necessary skills to better manage their rich coastal and marine resources. This partnership is helping conserve Tubbataha Reef to benefit thousands of residents and the generations to come. From the introduction of environment-friendly products to the preservation of marine resources, Petron continues to do its share of fuelling life.



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Founded in 1968 as a non-stock, non-profit organization, PISM has evolved to become the country's premier, professional association of supply management practitioners.

Our mission is to uplift the supply management profession and to continuously develop the practitioners to the highest ethical and world class standards.

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Environment our concern–McDo

GIANT HAMBURGER CHAIN MCDONALD'S yesterday said that as part of its corporate social responsibility, it recently presented to the Laguna Lake Development Authority its plans to address waste water pollution.

This before McDonald's was given a "Pasaway sa Lawa" award by the LLDA last week after its Fairview restaurant was cited as one of 26 food and other establishments polluting Laguna de Bay.

In a press release, Golden Arches Development Corp., McDonald's' Philippine master franchise holder, said some of the measures it was undertaking to mitigate pollution included adding chambers and filters to the grease traps in its stores and separating the hot and cold waste water lines.

Because environmental deterioration is an emerging concern, McDonald's said, a collective effort by all stakeholders is the solution to the different environmental problems plaguing any locality.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 19, 2007
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10**

A man of strife and contention.

Then the officials told the king, "This man should be put to death, because he is weakening the will of the fighting men and the people have left the city. In fact he is not out to save the people but to do harm." King Zedekiah said, "His life is in your hands for the king has no power against you."

So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Mal-chiah the king's son, in the Guards' Court. They lowered him by means of ropes. There was no water in the cistern but only mud and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebedmelech went and spoke to him, "My lord king! These men have acted wickedly in all they did to Jeremiah the prophet. They threw him into the cistern where he will die."

So the king ordered Ebedmelech the Ethiopian: "Take three men with you from here and draw Jeremiah the prophet out from the cistern before he dies."

2nd Reading: **Hebrews 12:1-4**

Persevere in running the race.

What a cloud of innumerable witnesses surround us! So let us be rid of every encumbrance, and especially of sin, to persevere in running the race marked out before us.

Let us look to Jesus the founder of our faith, who will bring it to completion. For the sake of the joy reserved for him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and then sat at the right of the throne of God. Think of Jesus who suffered so many contradictions from evil people, and you will not be discouraged or grow weary. Have you already shed your blood in the struggle against sin?

Gospel: **Luke 12:49-53**

I have come not to establish peace, but rather division.

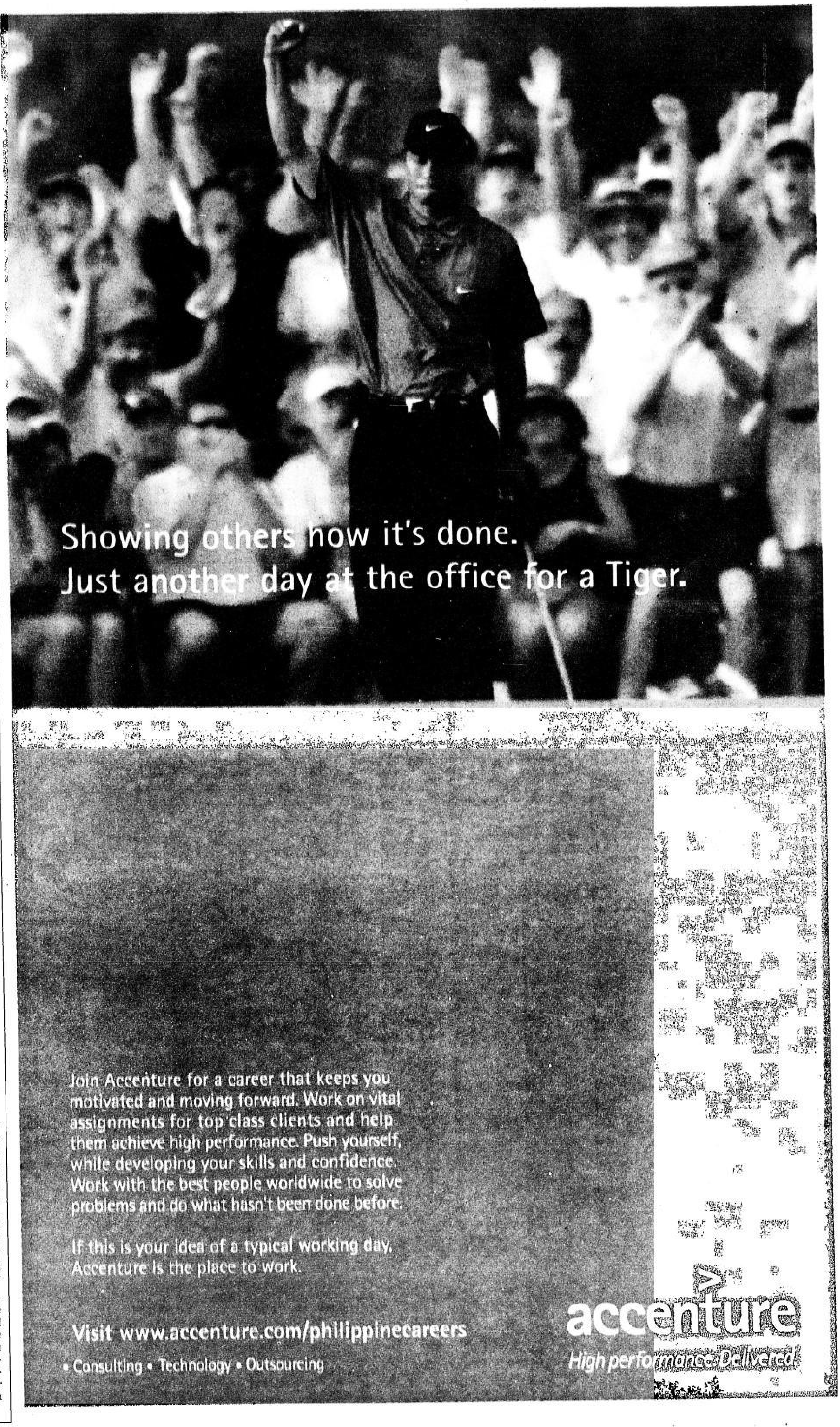
Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to bring fire upon the earth and how I wish it were already kindled; but I have a baptism to undergo and what anguish I feel until it is over!

"Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on, in one house five will be divided; three against two, and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Commentary

Jeremiah is assailed by his own countrymen because he demoralizes the remaining soldiers and the people left in the city. They are under siege because they did not rely on the power of God, but made pacts with other nations that now are over-running them. The king lets them do what they want and Jeremiah is thrown into a cistern where he sinks in the mud. This is the end of a prophet, or an interim. The king is approached by a Cushite and they are allowed to haul Jeremiah out before he dies. A true prophet tells the people what is reality, what is happening and why. But people do not want to hear it. There are only two choices with a prophet: hear and obey, or refuse to listen and attack the prophet.

And it is the same for all the followers of Jesus, the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, running the race, and even enduring shame and death with Jesus who brings fire and light upon the earth. We are not to break in the face of opposition or grow despondent, but face the divisions and difficulties that being faithful to God entails. In this Ordinary Time we are called to look at the depth of our commitment and whether we are speaking truly in a world that is in opposition to the Gospel of Jesus.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PORTRAIT OF A HAPPY MAN: After the underwater shoot in Puerto Princesa Bay, award-winning photographer Duncan Murrell (with shades) was back on the boat and couldn't stop smiling.

DUNCAN MURRELL/CONTRIBUTOR

CLOSE UP of the "gentle giant" makes it look like a monstrous creature. Largely ignored by fishermen in Puerto Princesa Bay, the whale sharks appear to have increased in number around the area prompting local tourism officials and conservationists to develop a tourist attraction program around it like in Donsol, Sorsogon.

DUNCAN MURRELL

Palawan, too, is home to butanding

From page A1

But the real treat was yet to begin. While swimming in the deep blue, Murrell gawked as the silhouette of a giant fish glided underneath him, heading toward the surface.

A whale shark twice the length of their boat was herding the smaller fish into the killing zone, as if working in cahoots with the tuna.

Murrell felt an adrenaline rush as he scrambled to take a series of underwater shots rarely seen in these parts.

New attraction

It was picture perfect: The gentle whale shark, about six meters in length, seemed to be posing for the photographer, like a ballerina about to execute a pirouette.

"If I were to compose that frame on Photoshop, I wouldn't have needed to alter anything," Murrell said of the picture.

Sightings of the rare whale shark (Rhincodon typus) around Puerto Princesa City just right outside the bay have increased in frequency over the last five years, prompting tourism officials and conservation groups to take stock of its potential as a tourist attraction.

City tourism officer Melinda San Juan-Mohammad said they were setting aside funds this year, for the first time, to undertake a more rigorous program to protect the whale shark and to promote it as a tourist attraction, in addition to the famous underground river of Puerto Princesa City.

"We are undertaking a capacity-building program to train local guides for whale shark watching and to promote this segment of tourism in Puerto Princesa," Mohammad told the INQUIRER.

Dolphin watch, too

Toto Cayabo, who works with boat skipper Danag, runs a thriving dolphin watching tour operation around Puerto Bay and is the first in the business to offer whale shark watching.

Cayabo has tied up with the city's hotels and offers the tour at a mere P750 per person as an introductory price.

"Pag ganitong kalmada ang panahon, malaki talaga ang chance *makita ang butanding* (When the waters are calm, there's a good chance to see the whale shark)," he said.

While Donsol promotes whale shark tours between the months of February and May, according to Cayabo, whale sharks have been sighted in Puerto Bay between June and September.

From far away

Cayabo believes that Palawan's whale sharks, being migratory species, may have come from as far away as Sorsogon looking for calm waters teeming with plankton, krill and small sardines which serve as their diet.

There have been little or no scientific studies on Puerto Princesa's whale sharks, compared to the more established whale shark congregation areas, like Donsol, Sorsogon, currently touted by the government as the world's whale shark capital.

Murrell, who has won coveted prizes, including the prestigious BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year, said based on bits of information he had gathered, the gentle giants show up in pods (social group of whales) of three or four.

Tiki-tiki

The whale shark is called *"butanding"* in Filipino, but Cuyuno fishermen of Palawan refer to it as *"tiki-tiki,"* mainly due to its resemblance in body form to a gecko.

However, unlike in Sorsogon where the whale shark had been hunted down for their meat, Palawan fishermen generally ignore the fish.

"It's not eaten here in Palawan," Cayabo said.

He added that the attitude of most fishermen was to avoid the fish for fear of getting it tangled in their lines and nets.

Mohammad said they were tapping science-based nongovernmental organizations in Palawan to gather more information about the whale shark and its feeding habits in Puerto Bay in order to guide their tourism promotion activities.

"We also want to tap communities around Puerto Bay so that they can benefit from this resource by serving as guides," she said.

RP seas may hold key to cancer cure

From page A1

Health Research and Development (PCHRD) at the Philippine College of Physicians' health forum last Tuesday.

With rich biodiversity comes rich "chemodiversity" because marine organisms have evolved to interact intimately with other organisms in the environment, Concepcion said, citing as an example a coral reef where both competitive and symbiotic relationships exist.

Concepcion, a professor at the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute, and her team of scientists have been studying sea sponges as a possible source of anticancer compounds.

"Marine invertebrates, like sponges, produce a chemical arsenal—compounds used for their defense and survival. This is the basis for [the search] for cytotoxic compounds that can be potentially useful," she said.

She added that with all this marine wealth, "we just need more efficiency in the way we do research. Funding is needed. We can count on foreign-based Filipino scientists to help us develop high-value drugs."

Concepcion's team has discovered a potential anticancer component that can be made to target only cancer cells on the general principle of antibody-targeted therapy.

The team—comprising around 20 marine scientists, natural products chemists, biochemists, and cell and molecular biologists, including Dr. Ed Padlan of the US National Institute of Health and Dr. Ameurfina Santos of the UP National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology—has submitted what it called the "Pharma Seas" program to the Department of Science and Technology and the PCHRD to pursue its research.

Its discovery is the subject of a project called "Amor" (for Antibody and Molecular Oncology Research), which is aimed at finding a cure for breast cancer.

Amor involves the development of targeted therapies for cancer using an antitumor antibody designed by Padlan, who was in the Philippines in 1998 under the government's "Balik Scientist" program. During that visit, he became one of the major collaborators of the project.

The first phase of Amor, which was funded by the PCHRD for six years, ended last year. It is currently on hold pending the latter's recommendation for the second phase.

Filipino molecular biologist

Concepcion is also a collaborator of Filipino molecular biologist Dr. Baldomero Olivera in another project involving sea snails.

Olivera, a professor of biology at the University of Utah, was named Harvard Foundation Scientist of the Year for 2007 in recognition of his three decades of work in developing drugs from animal wildlife.

His research has led to the discovery of a pharmaceutical class known as conopeptides, the active ingredient of a new drug—Ziconotide (Prialt)—which is derived from snail venom.

The drug has been tested to be about 1,000 times more powerful than morphine but not as addictive. (Olivera was apparently unable to patent his research, and has not profited from the sale of the drug.)

The compounds discovered by Olivera in the snail venom can be used to treat Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, myocardial infarction, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and depression, among others.

According to Concepcion, venomous snails are considered a megadiverse group, with thousands of species found all over the Philippines.

Frustration over funds

Concepcion expressed frustration over the delay of the second phase of Amor, saying the unavailability of funds could become a major setback for such an important drug discovery.

Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, PCHRD executive director, stressed that the Philippines could save on national expenditures if it could produce its own medicines and vaccines.

However, he lamented, self-sufficiency in medicines and vaccines comes at a steep cost—$1 billion for drug development (from conceptualization and trials to marketing) and half a billion dollars to upgrade vaccine facilities at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

The Philippines will remain an importer forever "if we do not have a strong research system in place," Montoya said. He said this was why the projects of local scientists, such as "Pharma Seas," should be encouraged.

Montoya expressed support for the cheaper medicines bill pending in Congress and the Philippine National Health Research System bill.

He cited a provision in the cheaper medicines bill that would allow for local research two years before the expiration of a drug patent to ensure that the Philippines would be able to produce affordable but quality generic drugs.

Montoya also cited Philippine herbal medicines long in use by ethnic communities and proven by clinical trials—*lagundi, sambong, akapulko* and *yerba buena.* (More clinical trials are needed for *ampalaya,* he said.)

Shortage of antibiotics

Concepcion said numerous marine microorganisms—such as bacteria and fungi—had yet to be studied but could be sources of bioactive compounds used in antibiotics.

"There is a shortage of antibiotics all over the world," she said. "The pipeline for new drugs has dried up. Think of how you can explore marine microorganisms and marine invertebrate organisms like sponges as possible sources of new drugs and antibiotics."

Concepcion said the advantage of nature-based drugs was that there were models for bioactivity on which scientists could base their projects.

Citing Olivera's work, she said painkillers could be derived from the neuroactive compounds of snail venom: "These organisms produce toxins that act on the nervous system to paralyze or sedate their prey, so there is a big chance of extracting a painkilling compound useful for humans."

Stranger's ...

From page A1

persons. *(See poem at right.)*

"Hindi ako maiyak. Na-steel ko na ang sarili ko dito. Pero napaiyak talaga ako nung nabasa ko yung tula (I am not weepy. I've steeled myself in this search. But I cried hard when I read the poem)," she told the INQUIRER.

Burgos does not personally know the man who wrote "Isang Pag-aalay (para kay Ginang Burgos)" and has not talked with him. She does not even know his name.

All she knows from her friends who sent her the "offering" is that he is a Filipino from Ontario, Canada, who was inspired to write it after reading about her in Conrado de Quiros' July 12 column in the INQUIRER titled "Missing."

The poem struck a chord within her, which was why she wept after reading it: *"Ang ganda, ang lalim* (It's beautiful, so profound)," she said.

Jonas, an agriculturist and member of the farmers group Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Bulacan, was abducted on April 28 at the Ever Gotesco Mall in Quezon City. He has not been seen since.

Jonas lives

"Isang Pag-aalay" speaks of how Burgos' search for her son will not be in vain and will help others who had disappeared or were killed.

It also tells her not to despair and says Jonas lives on in the farmers he has helped.

Burgos said she was heartened to learn that Filipinos away from the motherland were not only aware of her family's crusade but were also sufficiently moved to take action.

People of other nationalities have likewise taken notice of Jonas' disappearance and similar cases.

At the Oosterpark in Amsterdam, a group of artists held a street play to dramatize the poem of noted Turkish writer Nazim Hikmet titled "A Sad State of Freedom."

The performance by the People's Artists Network (PAN) on June 23 featured scenes of human rights violations in the Philippines as well as Jonas' plight and that of the farmers killed in a dispute at Hacienda Luisita, according to the website www.arkibongbayan.org.

Pictures posted on the website show a man with his head and body covered with a black cloth and flanked by a man in military fatigues and a woman reaching out to him. On the side is a child carrying a poster with Jonas' picture and the words "Missing: Jonas Burgos. Farmer, activist."

The event was organized by DeGemeenschaap (The Community). According to PAN's website, the street performance featured images of torture, abductions, massacres and restrictions on the right to travel freely.

Resistance poet

Burgos noted that the poet Nazim Hikmet had himself been persecuted for political reasons.

A website dedicated to Hikmet says he wrote resistance poems during Istanbul's occupation and was imprisoned for his political beliefs.

The Burgoses are not unfamiliar with political persecution.

Jonas' father, the late Jose "Joe" Burgos, was a press freedom fighter, having established the alternative newspaper Malaya during Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

He was also arrested in a military raid of the office of his other publication, We Forum.

Burgos said her family had nothing to do with the street play or any of the activities of Filipinos abroad concerning Jonas.

"We didn't know these people. We just learned about what they did from relatives and friends," she said.

She expressed appreciation for the support extended by Filipinos and foreigners, whether here or overseas, as she continues her search for Jonas.

The search has taken her to the Court of Appeals, which is hearing her petition for habeas corpus to compel the military to produce her son.

ISANG PAG-AALAY

(Para kay Ginang Burgos)
mula sa isang Pinoy sa Ontario, Canada

Mahal na ina, huwag ka pong malumbay,
pagtangis mo'y tulad ng uling sa apoy.
Sa matinding init, walang makapantay,
ni tigas ng asero, ito'y dadaloy.
Ang taginting ng halaklak ng diyablo'y
magiging paos at mawawalang saysay.

Mga walang kaluluwang inaanay,
kanilang pag-aakala, luha mo'y
tuyo at hindi tubig na bubuhay
sa mga ibang naglaho at pinatay.

Umasa ka, magsaya, huwag malumbay!
Ang anak ay iba, sya ay walang kapantay.
S'ya man ay nawalay, siya'y BUHAY na BUHAY!

Isa s'yang LAKAS, 'sang espiritung TUNAY!

Ang pagtulong n'ya sa magsasakang Pinoy,
kanyang adhikain at naging sanaysay.
Kahit sa unos, silang mga matamlay
ay walang pagod na tinulunga't inakay.
Tinuruan, inaruga, BINUBUHAY!

Siya ay dugong sa ugat dumadaloy
Na sa bawat pintig ng puso'y,
Nakakabinging sigaw sa kaaway,
"AKO'Y BUHAY at mananatiling BUHAY!"

"Ang pisikal kong katawan inyong hinalay,
Maglaho man ito, mga taong sinanay,
SILA ANG DIWA KO, ATING MGA BANTAY."

Sa muli.nyong pagtangkaang ulitin ang paghalay,
Kahit sa panahon na ang Diyos ay nahumpay,
Ang diwang aking naiwan, ito'y patuloy
na daluyong sa pagbabago ng kulay.

Burak ng kaisipan na parang kumunoy
Ito'y tutuyuin; aapakan at tayo'y akay-akay
TUNGO SA HARAPING WAGAS AT DALISAY!

100 'Ramons' to plant trees for 'The Guy'

MAGSAYSAY

THE BIGGEST GATHERING OF "Ramons" will take place tomorrow in honor of perhaps their most esteemed namesake—the late President Ramon Magsaysay—during the launch of a tree-planting initiative led by environment groups.

To commemorate the centenary of Magsaysay's birth, trees will be planted in different parts of the country by men all named "Ramon" beginning on Aug. 31, Magsaysay's birthday. Event organizers said they had gathered 100 "Ramons" to plant 100,000 saplings.

The tree-planting will end on March 17, the 51st anniversary of Magsaysay's death.

Magsaysay, also known as 'The Guy,' was well-loved for bringing his special brand of popular democracy to the grass roots.

The trees, to be named Ramon Magsaysay Centennial Trees, will be planted across the country, particularly on Mount Pinatubo and Mount Manunggal, places that held some significance for Magsaysay, organizers noted.

Mt. Pinatubo was the name of the presidential plane that crashed on Mt. Manunggal in Cebu on March 17, 1957, in which Magsaysay and 25 others were killed. Only journalist Nestor Mata lived to tell the tale of the fateful accident.

The meeting will be held on Monday at 43 Hillside Loop, Blue Ridge A, Quezon City, to discuss the mechanics of the tree-planting project organized by the Green Army Foundation, Mother Earth Philippines and Artists for the Environment. Special guests at the meeting will be Magsaysay's children, former Senator Ramon Jr. and Milagros Magsaysay-Valenzuela.

Ramons who may want to take part in the event can call Odette Alcantara, tel. 647-1181; Liesl Lim, 396-5029; Ramon Flores, 0920-9275061 or Ramon Orlina, 0917-8805108. *Mikò Morelos*

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Spend and shuffle

EDITORIAL

THE IRREPRESSIBLE MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAgo wants the Ombudsman unleashed on Metro Manila mayors who prove incapable or unwilling to properly clean their municipal drains. Pagasa said that garbage clogging drainage facilities has been the main culprit in the flooding that's afflicted the metropolis. By all means, any means to exact accountability from mayors should be welcomed, but we suspect—based on past administration behavior—that city mayors only get taken to task, when it's politically expedient to do so.

The President embarked on measures that, on the whole, seem sensible and timely. First, she transferred responsibility for Metro Manila's flood control projects from the Department of Public Works and Highways to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. She then instructed the budget secretary to raise MMDA's flood control budget from its present P101 million to P251 million (for 2008). And she went on to remind barangay officials that they are the front line, so to speak, in flood control efforts—which is very true.

We are, of course, aware of the President's penchant for trying to solve problems by reshuffling the same tired, old deck of officials, while simultaneously throwing money at the problem. For example, while it does make sense to have the MMDA focus on the National Capital Region's flood control efforts, we recall MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando crowing to media he had accomplished great things in terms of flood control. The drains, he said, last summer, were in tip-top shape. Now either they were, or weren't.

If they were, it says a lot of the executive mismanagement of the metropolis that the drains got all fouled up in a matter of months. If they weren't, then either Fernando was lying or wasn't on top of the situation: either way, this begs the question of why he deserves to have flood control responsibilities handed back to him. It also needs to be asked—if Fernando had indeed achieved great things with the drains—why flood control had been transferred by the President from the MMDA to the DPWH, only to hand it back to the MMDA again (the mischievous answer is, of course, the magic words, "elections" and "patronage spending").

Increasing the budget also begs another question: Was the flood control budget being allocated in too niggardly a manner? Could that be the reason why the President has decreed a P100-million increase? But then what does that over-parsimonious initial allocation suggest? Or, could something have been discovered over the past few weeks, which suddenly justifies the increase? We'd certainly like to know what our officials learned over the past few weeks that practical experience didn't teach them over the past few decades.

Either the government has a plan, or it's simply allocating money first, and then determining how to really spend it, later. Unfortunately neither prospect is comforting: if it had a plan, but wasn't adequately funding it, then it can't dodge the blame Santiago's trying to pass on to the mayors; if it didn't have a plan, then how on earth can it make sense to allocate money first, and do the planning later? The whole thing would smack too much of a public works scam in the making.

Still: the President was on to something when she ordered responsibility for flood control handed back to the MMDA. She was correct in urging barangay officials to be more active in declogging the drains. Where she can be even instrumental—that is, truly presidential—is by outlining how national and local governments can come together, integrate their efforts in a combined flood control plan, rationalize the creation and maintenance of the drainage infrastructure, wielding over everyone the tremendous persuasive and coercive powers of her office.

As it is, the long-standing problem of the NCR is that it is a collection of extremely jealous barons, the mayors, who are so insistent on their prerogatives, that a population (for whom the political boundaries the mayors so energetically guard, are essentially fictitious) bears the brunt of their collective arrogance. Legislation may be required, to propose a more unified form of government for the sprawling NCR.

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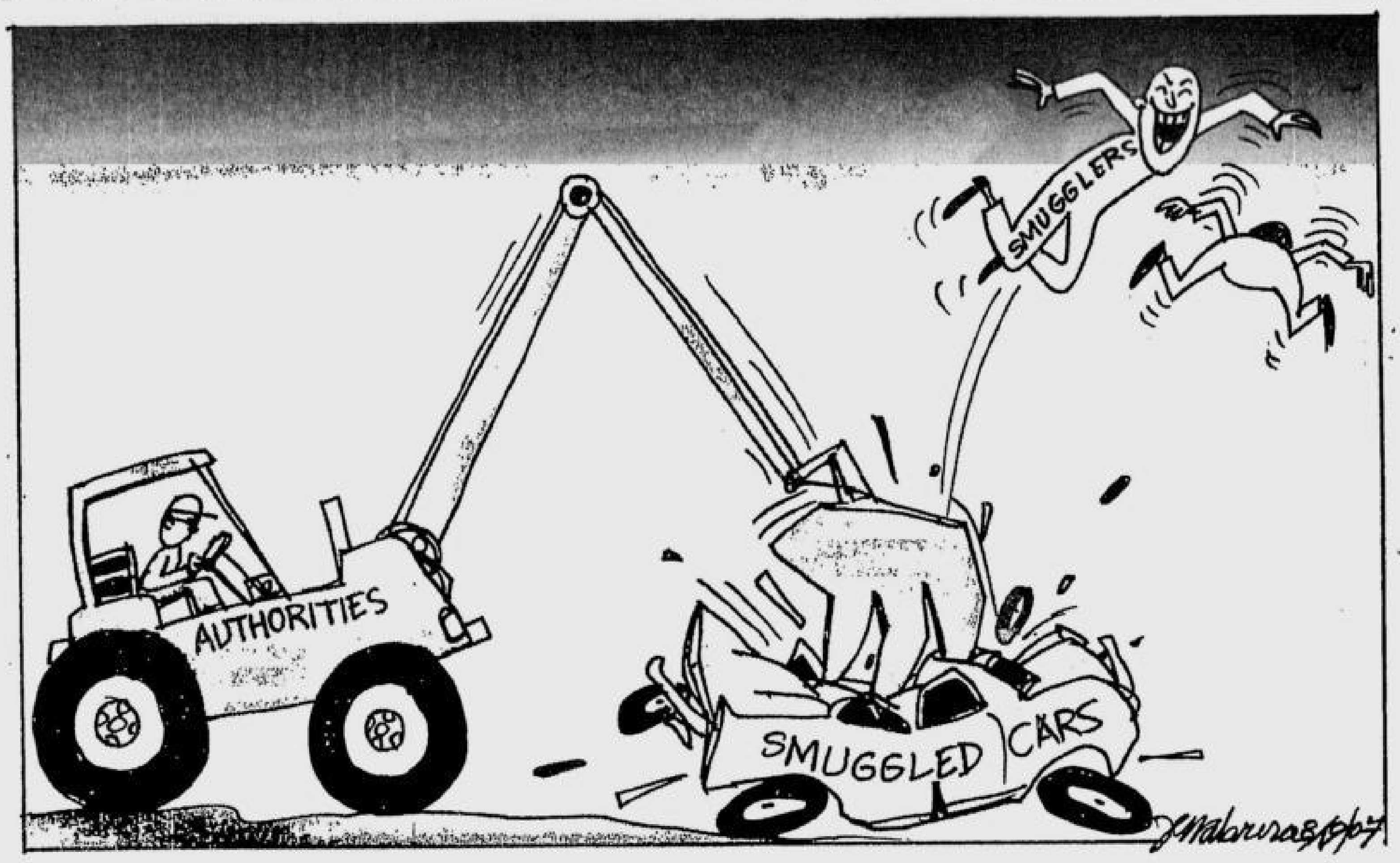

The feeble Armed Forces of the Philippines

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I HAVE NOTHING BUT ADMIRATION AND gratitude for the soldiers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are fighting the enemies of our country in the jungles of Mindanao and the mountain fastnesses in Luzon to uphold the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution as the symbol of our way of life as a free and independent nation.

They are exhibiting the proud virtues of patriotism and gallantry that Rizal and his compatriots at the turn of the last century, Wenceslao Vinzons and his fellow guerrillas during the Japanese Occupation, Ninoy Aquino and his peers who resisted the Marcos dictatorship, and the nameless ordinary soldiers fighting in the bloody barricades of war against the despoilers of our land, unselfishly offered as their heroic oblation against tyranny for the rest of our people to consecrate and emulate.

The 10 Marines who were brutally beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf are, together with their many other also slain comrades-in-arms, among the gallant soldiers of the AFP who have given their lives to the cause of democratic government. They and many other members from the rank and file of the Armed Forces have through these many years, and with similar valor mostly above and beyond the call of duty, perished on the field of battle in defense of the ideals they held dear for us to also cherish and preserve.

But I reserve this encomium only for them and not for many of their leaders. I withhold this laudation from those generals in the Armed Forces who have desecrated their rank with their corruption, exhibitionism, abusiveness and stupidity.

There are many of those armchair commanders who have, without danger to themselves in the comfort and security of their air-conditioned offices, seen young soldiers marching to their death while they themselves reaped unearned glory for battles supposedly won and outlaws reportedly killed but only in their press releases. Most of these fictitious victories are trumpeted during the legislative deliberations on the general appropriations bill, obviously to wangle a bigger budget for the AFP.

The public has been sufficiently informed and outraged by the many wrongs committed by generals past and present to disabuse us of the myth of the Armed Forces as the "protector" of the nation. That is the mission the Constitution assigns to the military establishment that, by its own repulsive record, has conclusively established as an undeserved confidence.

Let us not forget that the ordeal of martial law would not have lasted for more than 13 unbearable years were it not for the obeisance of the Armed Forces to the Marcos despotism that dishonored the Constitution, padlocked Congress, castrated the Supreme Court, and cheapened the nation into "70 million cowards and one sonafabitch," as one American legislator contemptuously called us.

The generals became heroes when they repented and joined Edsa I, but their act of contrition did not last long and soon gave way to their usual depravity. One was accused of building a P10 million mansion at Fort Bonifacio, another of misappropriating millions of pesos from the military pension fund, and several other officers of receiving "gratitude money" and acquiring fantastic fortunes with their modest income from the Armed Forces.

Even their spouses have been exposed for their frequent trips abroad, one of them for as many as 12 times during a one-year period to the tourist spots in Asia, America and Europe. It is strongly suspected that some field commanders demanded and got sizable portions of the ransoms paid to the kidnappers, who have remained scot-free. One general is being denounced as a butcher while a dainty colleague rode piggy-back on a small boatman to avoid wetting his tender toes in the dirty waters. And there is also the mystery of the numberless *desaparecidos* that is being credibly traced to the AFP.

I am not saying that all generals are bad and all enlisted men are good. Among the rotten apples from all ranks are exemplary officers and enlisted men who would atone for their imperfect organization with their courage in protecting our country from the disturbers of its tranquility. But their outstanding if unappreciated record is lost in the glare of publicity accorded retired generals with undeserved accolade, many with appointments to civil offices in violation of the constitutional rule that "civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military."

After so many years of fighting the outlaws, the Armed Forces have not won any decisive victory against the dissidents since President Ramon Magsaysay broke the back of communism in 1953. Lawlessness has loomed in bigger numbers and with renewed insolence. Now the Armed Forces are being taunted by the NPA, the MNLF, and even the once upstart Abu Sayyaf that has become a formidable army of bandits the "saviors of the nation" cannot subdue. That feeble title is a monumental mockery.

What if some small country declares war against the Philippines? How fast will the AFP surrender?

Disturbance

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A PHYSICIAN, an engineer and a lawyer discussing among themselves which is the oldest profession. The doctor argues: "Medicine is the oldest profession because God performed the first surgery when He took a rib from Adam."

The engineer counters: "Engineering is the oldest profession because God created the heavens and earth from chaos and confusion."

Then the lawyer speaks up and says: "Yes, but who do you think created all of the chaos and confusion?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 49-53) Jesus says that He has come into this world not to bring peace but chaos, confusion and even division. Coming from Jesus, the words are quite disturbing. One can't help but say "Hello? Jesus, is that you speaking?" Yes, it is Jesus who is speaking. It is Jesus who is disturbing our peace toward true and lasting peace.

* * *

If you find Jesus' words "disturbing," you're probably right, because that's precisely what He wants to do—to disturb us out of our comfort zones, and out of our lethargy. If you think Jesus is just a softy, or just a predictable reactionary, you are wrong, for Jesus was a prophet who was not afraid to speak the truth. He was not intimidated by anything or by anyone. Here was someone who was not afraid to rock the boat, and to disturb the peace.

* * *

We need prophets, people who disturb us and point to us the broader horizons and possibilities that lie ahead of us. Beyond platitudes, beyond pleasantries, beyond propaganda, what we need to hear sometimes are plain and painful truths that disturb and lead us out of darkness. So when people speak the truth, we must listen, really listen.

* * *

When there is a weather disturbance, we all become vigilant. The recent typhoons and floods have made us prepare, deal and cope with things beyond our control. Also in life, disturbance of any sort leads us to vigilance, compliance, acceptance, and yes, even penance. As it is, the Lord disturbs us so that He could lead us, and free us. Let us not be disturbed by the disturbances that surround us for these are God's way of challenging, prodding and cleansing us.

* * *

Last May, I experienced my first arthritis attack on my right hand. This experience "disturbed" my eating habits and lifestyle. That was a signal for me to go back to basic discipline, diet and exercise. I could have resolved this conflict by just taking pain relievers and palliatives, but instead I chose the road of acceptance and sacrifice. Now, I am lighter, freer and wiser. Disturbance could lead us either to deeper bondage, or to deliverance.

* * *

I always write my column (with my right hand) sitting down by my desk, beside an elevated altar with a statue of the Blessed Mother on top. Recently, I have been experiencing back pains which become more pronounced when I am seated. This morning, I decided to stand up and write on the altar. This not only relieved me of my back pain but also of that writer's feeling of being alone and lonely, what with Mama Mary looking over and commenting on what I write. Yes, disturbance not only heals us, it also uplifts us.

* * *

How fragile and fleeting is worldly peace! But this should not discourage us from praying and working for peace anyway. How difficult it is to become an agent of peace and how far easier it is to be uninvolved, cynical and critical. But the challenge remains for all of us to become instruments and channels of peace.

* * *

If you are going through any "disturbance" in your life right now, just remember that God is in every calm and in every disturbance. As someone beautifully put it: "Sometimes God calms the storm, and sometimes He lets the storm rage, and calms His child."

* * *

For people who have much in this life, if the recent weather disturbances do not a bit disturb your lifestyle, the sufferings of the little people around you should at least disturb you.

* * *

Think about it: "If prayer doesn't always give you peace and joy, it's OK. As we come closer to the Lord, we see deeper truths about ourselves and our world which aren't always pleasant. They disturb and upset us but also move us to work for better things."

* * *

A good friend Pete Roa is now resting in peace after going through six years of physical pain and sickness. Through it all, Pete was a man at peace with the world, with himself and with his God. If he went through pain (and he did), he never showed it, and never expected the world to know it. Here was a man who celebrated life, joys, pains, sickness and all. He was able to weather all the disturbances because he was deeply anchored on the Prince of peace.

* * *

Bantay Matanda Inc. invites you to a lay forum on Occupational Therapy & Alzheimer's Disease. This will be held on Aug. 25, 2007, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to realize that disturbance can lead me to freedom and deliverance. Amen.

Conscience of the nation

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT JOVITO R. SALONGA, the country's oldest living statesman and my personal guru for more than 50 years, launched last Aug. 14 another illuminating, persuasive and life-changing masterpiece. The book's title, **"Not by Power or Wealth Alone,"** is its best summation. As an exemplary public servant and brilliant lawyer, he has had a generous share of power and access to wealth in this material world. But in characteristic humility, he declares them thoroughly inadequate to satisfy life and to reform society.

Practised what he preached. Dr. Salonga, a Protestant, has spoken before many congregations, Catholic and Muslim included. He was always eloquent, spoke with the tremolo of infectious conviction, and left his audience with thoughts and reflections that led to action. But that is not all. True, he preached powerfully; but equally true, he practised even more stringently what he preached.

Believing that the Marcos dictatorship plundered not only the public treasury but also the people's values, he sponsored the enactment of the Ethical Standards Law. Remarkably, in his personal conduct, he went even beyond the requirements of this law or of any known code of ethics.

For instance, when he and his law partners, Sedfrey A. Ordoñez (who became solicitor general, secretary of justice, and ambassador to the United Nations) and Pedro L. Yap (who was elevated to be chief justice of the Philippines), were recruited to public office by President Corazon C. Aquino in 1986, he was not satisfied with taking a leave from his prestigious law firm as demanded by law and ethics; he went all the way and **dissolved** permanently his law partnership.

In serving a government swept to office by legendary people power, he opted to forego the luxuries that wealth could buy to be able to demonstrate the virtues that power and wealth alone could not bring. He chose to live simply so that others may simply live.

Indeed, he is a living model of his teachings. He is a dedicated husband, a caring father, a faithful friend and a devoted man of God. Never compromising his principles in exchange for friendship, kinship, relationship, power or wealth, he lives an almost ascetic life. He does not smoke, drink, or gamble. Money, worldly pleasures, titles and honors hold no fascination for him.

Outstanding and humble. To say that Dr. Salonga is outstanding is to say something ordinary about him. He topped the bar examinations, topped his doctoral class in Yale University and topped the senatorial elections three times, a record unequaled in this nation's history. Yet he remains humble and child-like, as our Lord Jesus Christ counseled all His disciples to be. No wonder, he had been selected as one of the seven Ramon Magsaysay awardees this year.

Even when I was his assistant in his law firm in the early '60s, he was never allured by possessions, positions or propositions. He never quibbled over attorney's fees; did not bill even his wealthiest clients like Don Eugenio Lopez Sr., leaving to them the problem of how to compensate him. Money had very little meaning for him then, and less so now.

Many of the essays, homilies and speeches included in the book had been written some 35 years ago, after his life was almost snuffed out by that bombing in Plaza Miranda, Manila on Aug. 21, 1971. In it are chronicled his pains, struggles and hopes. But like our Lord Jesus Christ, his faith grew stronger as his physical self felt weaker.

Sprightly at 87. On June 22, 2007, Dr. Salonga celebrated his 87th birthday. Yet, despite his advanced age and despite the many tiny pieces of shrapnel that are still imbedded in his frail body as a result of that grenade blast in Plaza Miranda, he is still sprightly. More important, his intellect and his interest in public welfare are still as sharp as when he was 40. Let me give just two recent proofs of this assertion:

1. Peeved at the Commission on Elections' refusal to reveal the names of the party-list nominees in the last elections, he sued the poll body for violating the people's constitutional right to public information; the result: a unanimous Supreme Court decision (in Rosales vs Comelec), promptly promulgated on May 4, 2007, commanding the Comelec to follow his demand; and

2. Alarmed that President Macapagal-Arroyo violated the Constitution in appointing to the Supreme Court someone who was not a natural-born citizen, he again sued; the result: again, a unanimous Supreme Court decision (in Kilosbayan vs Ermita), promptly issued on July 3, 2007, enjoining Gregory Ong from accepting his appointment to the Supreme Court, precisely because of his lack of natural-born citizenship.

Many times during his prayers and moments of solitude, he has asked our Lord why his life had been spared, and why he had been gifted with longevity when he was one of the most injured during that deadly Plaza Miranda blast. I dare say that our Good Lord had granted him a long and purposeful life, because He wanted him to be the **conscience of the nation**; to be its **fearless anchor** during stormy seas of political upheavals; and to be the **indefatigable teacher and model** of the young and not-so-young who aspire to lead this country.

* * *

In last Sunday's column, our proofreader inadvertently omitted the hyphens in the married surnames of the lady justices of the Supreme Court and the middle initial (an "S") of our incumbent Chief Justice. Sorry, your honors.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Over sea and under storm

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

MANILA, PHILIPPINES—THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT about the air today. There is a stillness, a quietness, as if even the wind has decided to stop and wait for something to happen. It means that a typhoon is on its way, waiting to spin over the Northwest Pacific Basin, westward toward northern Luzon, to leave Ortigas in darkness and hundreds of commuters stranded, with the smell of sweat on skin, in the MRT station.

It is difficult to write on a day like this, when the light is low and the skies are grey and there is nothing I'd rather do than crawl back into bed under cool sheets and sleep the sleep of the dead. A psychiatrist on TV talks about this phenomenon, and says that a lack of sun can cause laziness or depression or a general unwillingness to function properly. As my willingness to function properly is rare to begin with, and can change with the alignment of the stars, I'm grateful to find something else to blame when I talk to my respective bosses.

It is August, the middle of storm season, the time when typhoons rip into the metropolis, then speed out, only to let loose another typhoon clinging to its tail. It is a time when tempers rise with the flood inches, and politicians strut out in knee-high boots to prance before television cameras. And while the yellow sun throbs as the rain falls, children whisper of fairy weddings and strange creatures afoot. Foreign travelers warn against going to Manila at this time, and talk about disease and dirty water that flood the streets. And on the unlucky event that your flight lands in Manila, "It is best to leave on a connecting flight right away."

This is the fifth storm since January, there was Amang and Bebeng and Chedeng and Dodong. Political correctness has integrated male names into the list of typhoon names after arguments that men, after all, can be as temperamental as women. A few days ago, Egay came a-calling, knocking on windshields and cardboard front doors, flooding 20 towns, suspending classes and canceling domestic flights. In the news, a man pounds nails into his wooden house with a hammer, repairing storm damage, only to be told that there is more to come. To live in the Philippines is to be forced to live in a state of apathy to survive—no sooner has a storm disappeared than there is word that another is racing on its way.

It is why, perhaps, that although there is much indignation over the late suspension of classes—enough to galvanize local mayors and officials into a much-televised sit-down lunch meeting to discuss the SOP of class suspension—there is much less furor over the number of the dead and displaced that comes inevitably after the announcement of a typhoon in the offing. Four hundred thousand people were affected by floods; 1,017 people were evacuated in Mexico, Guagua, and Bacolor, while eight people were killed in storm-related landslides last week.

But perhaps it is not so much callousness as resignation, an awareness that anything can happen to anyone, that bad luck can come with the same regularity as the monthly rent, and all that can be done is to live and live happy. Yesterday I stood outside my apartment building, watching the rain ripping sideways through the air. Then there was a racket, a clatter and a scream, and then a blur shot out of the curtain of rain: two small boys, sitting on an improvised skateboard, wet and shiny and giggling. And the one jeep that passes by my building rumbled by, the grinning driver raising a palm in a high five. He says he's going to keep driving even if school is suspended, because hey, who else will?

In an international survey conducted by British think-tank New Economics Foundation, the tiny South Pacific Ocean archipelago of Vanuatu, with a population of 200,000, is the happiest in the Happy Planet Index. Marke Lowen of Vanuatu Online, the republic's online newspaper, says that the only things the people of Vanuatu fear are cyclones and earthquakes. In the same list, out of 178 countries, Italy comes out in 66th place, ahead of Germany at 81st, Japan at 95th, Britain at 108th, Canada at 111th, France at 129th, the United States at 150th and Russia, in a long way down at 172nd place. And the land where three stars circle a yellow sun in a field of red, blue and white comes out as the 17th happiest country on earth.

My chemistry professor house mate tells me the joy comes from air ionized by lightning—I like to think it's because we're Filipino. Maybe after being battered by so many calamities, natural and otherwise, nothing short of King Kong roller-skating down Edsa will faze the Filipino. Even reports take on this relativistic perspective, announcing that "only" a few dozen families were evacuated.

Out on the street a driver pours buckets of floodwater on his tricycle's wheels. Construction workers use the water to mix cement on the side of the road. All of them laugh, and say that there's no call to waste free water. And in Manila, boys in shorts leap into a swimming pool that stretches across the street. TV channels chronicle their benevolence by broadcasting their donations of hot soup in Styrofoam bowls. Farmers celebrate the rising rivers, children in school uniforms rush out of school gates screeching with joy. In the dark, candles are lit, and old stories are told and retold over bottles of whiskey and cheap beer. On cots, on beds, on cement floors, families curl together under blankets, while storms rage outside.

In a country tossed by wind, stung by rain and left grey under a cloudy sky—metaphorical or otherwise—we take what happiness we can.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

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The Latin Mass: beyond the language

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

THE LATIN MASS?

"I'm all for it. I love that Mass with all the memories linked to it. Like the High Mass I attended in the Seville cathedral. Besides I know Latin." "OK *din ako sa* Latin Mass, for the feeling of unity, reverence and greatness for God, anywhere."

For us, "Latinized" in worship and Westernized in culture, so easily rekindled is nostalgia for the mysterious murmurings of a remote priest speaking a strange tongue, and for the beauty and solemnity of all the "smells and bells" of Mass on the high altar. But I wonder if our faith stirrings for practices old and beautiful occurred while they were happening in our youth, or as memories go, mainly upon sweet recall. We may have been moved to "feeling holy" then, but even then we would be children hissing *"Patis kamatis"* for every *"Ora pro nobis"* in the endless litanies.

As for the "liturgical chaos" after Vatican II, the cultural-religious matrix of the romanticized medieval past of the West, Asia and Africa in the past and present, and modern East and West, are worlds apart. If old Europe and our own elders and ourselves worship with folded hands, calloused (or knee-padded) knees and bowed heads, and Asians do so with silence and Africans with movement and song, and today's global generations X and Y as they choose, who is to judge what is proper and improper?

Other reactions range from nonchalance to alarmist. It's "not terribly earth-shaking," not "a rightward lurch." It's just an "option," a "permission" that "does not oblige." But "may" can turn to "must" (possible, if the Church from the Vatican down to the parishes are systematically set in motion to disseminate the Latin Mass). It's a "triumph of conservatism" setting the Church on "a new old course." It's a step back for Vatican II and may drag along its other reforms. When you come to think of it, 42 years of Vatican II and how go its 16 great decrees? Cry not for Edsa I, it's only 21 years old.

There is one more important factor to consider. Rina Jimenez-David mentioned the word "inculturation" in her column. Let me pursue that loaded word. "Today, many Asian and African theologians are attempting to express the Christian faith in terms of the cultures and religions of their peoples." Scholar and priest are making a case to "root their faith in the cultural moorings of their communities, shedding the European images and symbols that obscure Christianity in the region… Faith is common. But its expression should be in local culture. Most rites in the Catholic Church are rooted in local culture." (Look at our *pasyon-pabasa-cenaculo*).

The future of Christianity is shifting from Europe and North America to Africa, Asia and Latin America, and the latter are justifiably sensitive about their cultures. (Witness the flak Pope Benedict XVI received for his remarks on Brazil's indigenous cultural heritage.)

Here's more. "Christ's story is an Asian story" and "the roots of Christianity are sunk deeper in the East than in the West." The historical threads are challenging and even disconcerting for anyone steeped in classical Western tradition and once made to believe that this was superior.

Comes now this hint of a re-Europeanization of the Church. It's no secret that Pope Benedict is "European to the core, and for him Western Europe remains the heart of the Church." If so, who cannot appreciate him for the dream and the goal to bring back Europe to the Church, now painfully "reduced to a geriatric, art-filled echo chamber"?

Who cannot share his dream of doing so? Except that, in view of the need for inculturation and an equally deep if not deeper claim to the roots and character of Christianity, the return of Europe to the Church need not mean Europeanizing the rest of the world, beginning perchance with the return of the Latin Mass.

But why should there be any tension between inculturation and Europeanization? Live and let live. Unity in diversity, not uniformity. Latinizing all of us is unrealistic. Consider:

In the e-mail: "… from my silent pew, the people seemed irrelevant. This Mass belonged to priest and his altar boys…. to hand [the Church's] highest form of public worship back to Father makes Latin illiterates like me irate." So, "is the Church the people or the institution?"

"Oratio Imperata Ad Petendam Pluviam." The official language may sound all that royal and authoritative, but does that mean anything to the masses?

"People's heads were buried in thick black missals." What about the no read-no write-no money Africans and Filipinos who can never have a missal? ("What's a missal?" asks my son.) Whither the universal Church?

Here is an unlikely but possible scenario. Who knows? Sometime in the future, we may have not just two official Mass liturgies—the Latin and the vernacular—but even more: like Masses with celebrant priests sitting on the ground or in low seats like Jesus at the Last Supper; or exuberant Masses like those of the Charismatic movements; or Masses sung, chanted, whispered, whether in church, mall or park—all permitted according to need and culture, without anybody frowning in disapproval. I am sure Christ in the Eucharist will smile and bless us all.

Preposterous, say the conservatives. Possible, say the dreamers. What happens when differing sides refuse to budge? The natural outcomes acquire a life of their own and become accomplished facts.

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com; fax 8210659

Breaking the democratic taboo

WORLD VIEW

Mohammad Habash

I AM OFTEN INVITED BY RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES in the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia to attend meetings that are held to urge people to follow Islamic faith and law, while avoiding any debate connected to politics or political rights. Political rights, my hosts insist, are maintained by the ruling regimes themselves, and these follow the teachings of the Koran.

But recently an invitation came from the Faisal Center for Islamic Research and Studies, which actually wanted me to talk about democracy, or "good governance," as the participants called it.

Until recently, this topic was taboo in Saudi Arabia, where the regime doesn't allow any margin for political debate, and commands people to listen, obey and leave matters of government to their rulers.

It was obvious that the conference organizers' goal was to revive religious and political speech in order to find a middle ground between Islamic faith and democracy. I argued that, as many Islamic scholars have recognized, Islamic jurisprudence is compatible with democratic values. Every country that has chosen democracy has come closer to achieving Islam's goals of equality and social justice.

Democracy suffers in the Islamic world due to skepticism about everything that comes from the West, especially the United States. Thus, some leaders view democratization efforts as a new form of colonialism or imperialism in disguise.

But the region's hesitancy to embrace democracy goes beyond mere fear of Western hegemony. There is a deep philosophical dispute about the nature of democracy. Some Islamic thinkers point to an inevitable contradiction between Islamic and democratic values. They argue that Islam requires submission to the will of God, while democracy implies submission to the will of people. This notion was clear in the writings of Said Kotb, who saw parliaments as preventing people from submitting to the rule of God.

Yet Kotb's understanding contradicts with the established practices of the Prophet Muhammad, who created the first real state in the Arabian peninsula by declaring the constitution of Medina, which stated: "Muhammad and the Jews of Bani-Aof [who were citizens of Medina at that time] are one nation." Thus, social relations were to be based on equality and justice, not religious beliefs.

Indeed, the Prophet Muhammad's most important political truce, the Hodibiah Agreement between his rising nation and the leaders of Quraish (the dominant tribe in Mecca at that time), stated clearly that "everybody is free to join the league of Muhammad or the league of Quraish." Many non-Muslim tribes, like the Christians of Nagran, the Jews of Fadk and the pagans of Khoza'a, joined Muhammad's league and became part of the Islamic state. All Muslim and non-Muslim tribes had equal rights and freedoms, and enjoyed the protection of the state. Most importantly, Mecca was later opened to protect the pagan people of Khoza'a against the attacks of Quraish.

So it was not Muhammad's intent to build a theocratic or religious state under the rule of mullahs. He was establishing a democratic civil state where people were equal in rights and obligations.

Reconciling the true understanding of Islam and democracy will, I believe, lead to a full realization of the richness of the Islamic experiment. It could also add great vitality to the democratic experiment by bringing it closer to the Muslim street. But the Islamic mainstream must first realize the importance of democratic reform. And this is possible only by clearly understanding the Prophet's message, which promises genuine solutions for every time and place.

Although the creation of study centers to debate the concept of Islamic democracy reflects the natural evolution of Islamic thinking, it will not go unopposed. Indeed, during one of the sessions I attended, Sheik Ahmad Rageh of Al-Imam University responded angrily to the Tunisian researcher Salah Edeen Al-Jorashi: "How do you expect us to accept the freedom of faith in Islam? It is something that exists only in your illusions. We believe in a religion that doesn't bargain with right, or hesitate in creed. We believe in a religion that orders us to kill the converts. There is no place in our nation for a malevolent or a renegade."

I find it hard to understand how Sheik Rageh can miss (or ignore) the clear verses in the Koran, which order us to do the very opposite:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion";

"Thou art not one to manage their affairs";

"We have not sent thee to be disposer of their affairs for them"; and

"Say, 'The truth is from your Lord,' let him who will, believe, and let him who will, reject."

There are many other verses in the Koran that bear a message of tolerance and freedom. The mine of Islamic jurisprudence is very rich, but the problem is in the way its treasures are used. As the ancient Arabs used to say: "A man's choice is a piece of his mind." The struggle in the Islamic world nowadays is a struggle for a piece of the Muslim mind.

Project Syndicate

Mohammad Habash, a member of the Syrian Parliament, is director of the Islamic Studies Center in Damascus

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THEY SAID

Deathless

"The flame of truth will never die. No amount of repression will stop our yearning for truth. They may kill us today, but tomorrow, more of us will come."

—Free Legal Assistance Group president Pablito Sanidad, encouraging aspiring journalists to press on with their dreams

Too important

"Education is too important to leave to the government alone."

—Former Education Undersecretary Mike Luz

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Dealing with human trafficking

LEAVING HOME TO WORK ELSEWHERE IS A DREAM MANY FILIPINOS NURture. It is their answer to poverty and joblessness. Yet, there have been too many stories of migrants heading for faraway places, only to find themselves in the worst kinds of employment: as prostitutes or slaves, doing bonded labor for which they are sometimes not paid at all.

Trafficking in persons has grown to be a worldwide problem because of, among others, the ease of domestic and international travel and because there are simply too many willing victims. Weak law enforcement has also aggravated the problem.

The US State Department classifies the Philippines as a Tier 2 country in the area of human trafficking. This means it has failed to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making efforts to do so. Tier 1 countries are fully compliant, while those in Tier 3 are not.

The victims of domestic trafficking are mostly young men and women from the remote areas in the Visayas and Mindanao. Their destination: Metro Manila. Most of them end up as prostitutes, domestic helpers or factory workers, and discover that life in the big city can be a nightmare.

By Luz Rimban and Yvonne Chua

DAVAO CITY—ONE LATE EVENING ON JULY 13, A DISTRESSED woman appeared at the doorstep of the Bahay Silungan Sa Daungan (BSSD), a shelter for victims of human trafficking at the Sasa Wharf here.

The woman suspected that her 16-year-old daughter was aboard the SuperFerry vessel that was preparing to leave for Manila. She wanted the ship searched and her daughter prevented from heading for an uncertain fate in the big city. It was 9:30 p.m. The boat was leaving in 15 minutes.

"We were running out of time," said Sheila Ruben, a social worker of the Visayan Forum Foundation, which runs the BSSD.

In what has now become established procedure set up by the Davao City Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, Ruben quickly contacted SuperFerry officials and asked to see the passenger manifest. She did not find the girl's name but saw that of the girl's 21-year-old sister. After a quick scan of the photos of passengers taken at the SuperFerry's boarding gate, Ruben confirmed that the girl had indeed boarded the vessel, using her older sister's identity.

Up to 20 per trip

Ruben asked the ship's captain to hold the vessel's departure while she, the victim's mother and some BSSD volunteers as well as port and SuperFerry personnel boarded the vessel and discreetly searched the ship. In minutes, they found the girl, whose identity has been kept confidential. Shortly after 10 p.m., the ship was on its way to Manila.

Each time a vessel leaves Davao City's Sasa Wharf, BSSD social workers say they intercept as many as 20 passengers headed for Manila, potential victims of human trafficking syndicates.

Pulled by the promise of employment in Luzon and pushed by grinding poverty in Mindanao, these victims are coerced or deceived into a variety of exploitative situations in the Philippines or abroad: bonded labor, prostitution or abusive domestic work.

Law enforcers say some of these syndicates are part of organized crime networks that also engage in drug trafficking.

Mostly minors

In many cases, the victims are female and minors, as the rescue exemplified. The girl later told BSSD personnel she had been recruited to work for P9,000 a month as a waitress during the day and a karaoke attendant at night in a restaurant somewhere in Luzon. Witnesses said the girl had four other companions who managed to make the voyage to Manila.

The case illustrates the successes as well as the problems faced by government and nongovernmental agencies involved in the antitrafficking campaign.

The BSSD in this city is one of four halfway houses built by the Philippine Port Authority and managed by the Visayan Forum. Since it opened in 2002 it has provided direct services such as emergency temporary shelter to more than 2,000 people recruited by suspected human traffickers. The other shelters are at the ports of Manila, Batangas City and Matnog, Sorsogon.

The campaign against the trafficking of Filipinos inside and outside the country received a big boost in 2003 when Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted, and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking or IACAT was subsequently created. The interagency council has counterparts in areas like Davao where human trafficking flourishes. It also works closely with nongovernmental organizations like the Visayan Forum.

Places where victims come from

Region	Provinces and cities
1	La Union and Pangasinan
2	Isabela
CAR	Baguio City
3	Zambales, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga Tarlac and Bataan
NCR	Manila
4	Rizal and Cavite
5	Masbate and Camarines Norte
6	Aklan, Iloilo, Negros Occidental
7	Cebu and Bohol
8	Tacloban City, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Leyte and Southern Leyte
9	Zamboanga and Zamboanga Sibugay
10	Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon
11	Davao del Norte and Davao del Sur
12	South Cotabato, Gen. Santos City Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat
Caraga	Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Butuan City

SOURCE: DSWD

Three elements

The law lists three elements that constitute trafficking in persons: the act, means and purpose. The acts include recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons within or across national border. The means cover threats or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim. These are done for the purpose of exploitation, including prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery and the removal of organs.

The intensified antitrafficking efforts have gotten the Philippines out of the US State Department's "Tier 2-Watch List" and into "Tier 2" this year. In Tier 2 are countries whose governments fail to fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act but are making significant efforts to do so.

But the strides were mainly in preventing the trafficking of migrant workers and protecting those exploited abroad, according to a State Department report. "The government demonstrated weaker efforts to combat internal sex and labor trafficking," it said.

As a result, the report said, the Philippines remains a source, transit and destination country for men, women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. The United Nations estimates that the Philippines has contributed from 600,000 to 800,000 victims of trafficking in persons.

The government has tagged 39 provinces and cities—more than two-thirds of which are in the Visayas and Mindanao—as the source of Filipinos who are trafficked.

Shipping remains a major mode of transport, with the country's 123 ports offering human trafficking rings possible exit routes. In recent years, faster and cheaper air and land travel, including the Roro (roll-on, roll-off transport system) or the nautical highway, has made it easier to transport people, said Art Necessito, Visayan Forum's Mindanao coordinator.

Low conviction rate

Traffickers and their victims continue to be emboldened. Government lawyers have managed to win only eight cases against persons accused of human trafficking four years since RA No. 9208 was passed. Four of the cases that ended in convictions were in Quezon City and two each in Zamboanga and Batangas.

Senior State Prosecutor Deanna Perez, who heads the IACAT secretariat, attributed the low conviction rate to, among others, the victims' refusal to testify against recruiters, which weakens the government's cases. "The main problem is that witnesses back out," she said.

Victims often refuse to blow the whistle on recruiters for fear of reprisal. Even social workers and volunteers have experienced being harassed by recruiters.

A recruiter once intercepted outside the Davao City port pointed a gun at a Visayan Forum volunteer. "The recruiters act as if they were more powerful than the police," Visayan Forum's Ruben said.

Recruiters could also be close friends, neighbors, relatives of victims or prominent members of the community, she said. "They don't want to endanger these friends and relatives, and even if they go through repeated counseling, they still tend to believe these recruiters more than social workers."

Recruited by neighbor

The 16-year-old girl rescued here was enticed by a neighbor—a notorious recruiter who regularly scours slum areas in Barangay Sasa for minors to be shipped to Manila. The victim not only refused to cooperate with social workers but also vented her anger at her mother for aborting her trip to Manila. "She threw a pitcher at the mother before locking herself up in her room," said Visayan Forum volunteer Odeza Juario.

Most victims treat antitrafficking volunteers and social workers as villains. "Most of the time, they think we are the *kontrabida* for stopping them," said Ruben.

Such cases need careful handling, which is why volunteers hold off presenting the victims to the police, an experience that could traumatize them. It does not help that no policewomen are assigned to the port in Davao City. The nearest police station where there are policewomen is half a kilometer from the Sasa port.

But the Department of Justice also thinks that the police should share part of the blame for the low number of convictions of traffickers. Perez said most law enforcers are unfamiliar with RA 9208 and its provisions, and often file the wrong cases before prosecutors. "They should also acquire personal knowledge of the case so that they can pursue cases even if victims get cold feet," she said.

Some members of the Davao City Police seem to bear out Perez's observations. One policeman at the port told reporters that he did not have the authority to prevent minors from traveling to Manila with employers. "The parents gave their written consent. It says they're allowing their child to work in Manila. What law will stop that? Will I arrest the recruiter for illegal trafficking when that recruiter has the child's parental consent?" he asked.

The antitrafficking law prohibits the "recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation" with or without parental consent.

Peak season

Part of the modus operandi of human traffickers is to transport recruits from Mindanao and the Visayas to Manila during peak travel seasons such as the summer, semestral and Christmas breaks. These minors then blend in with the general student population traveling on inter-island vessels.

The Visayan Forum conducts pier patrols, closely watching people traveling in groups. It is part of the inspection team that tries to come into direct contact with passengers, helping screen the tickets and travel documents of outgoing passengers at the gate to the Sasa port. "We pay attention to those carrying consecutively numbered tickets," she said, referring to tickets purchased for a group.

Once suspected trafficking victims are spotted, they are taken to the BSSD for initial verification. An interview with the victim and her companion is conducted in a receiving area equipped with a surveillance camera, which allows the social workers to observe their behavior.

Collusion

Even then, the monitoring is not foolproof. The 16-year-old boarded the ship undetected and may have slipped through the cordon by entering through the vehicle entrance or by taking a *banca* from her home near the port. Visayan Forum volunteers said the girl's appearance did not raise suspicion because she was not dressed for travel and did not carry any bags. This may mean collusion between some port personnel and recruiters, said the social workers and some port guards.

The social workers and volunteers are on the lookout for passengers who fit the profile of trafficked persons. In a recent survey of ship passengers in Zamboanga and Surigao, which the Visayan Forum classifies as priority areas these days, the NGO found that potential victims of human trafficking are 18 to 25 years old, at least high school graduates and traveled with their parents' consent, sometimes with recruiters whom they barely know. A number were aware of possible exploitation, but still chose to go with the recruiters.

Potential victims usually come from poor homes and are products of dysfunctional families, according to Visayan Forum's Necessito.

The teenager recovered recently by Davao City's BSSD, for instance, was a single mother with a seven-month-old child. Days before her rescue, she was one of those rounded up by police on suspicion of sniffing solvents. She is one of five siblings fathered by three men.

The girl's mother knew that her child was being recruited for work in Luzon and actually consented to it. The mother objected only when her daughter left without saying where she was headed and neighbors warned her she could get into trouble with the law.

Transit areas

The Visayan Forum has identified all regions in Mindanao, including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as major sources of victims trafficked domestically. Davao is among the transit areas, along with Zamboanga, Surigao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan, Ozamiz and Polloc.

At the halfway house here, however, social workers have noted a surge in the number of potential traffic victims from Cotabato City. Ruben said the Visayan Forum was planning to recommend a study on the reasons behind the increase.

It is in the poorest, remotest towns of faraway provinces like those in Mindanao that people are most vulnerable to recruitment by traffickers. This is why the IACAT is pushing local governments to enact ordinances to prevent the problem from spreading.

"We are pushing for a model ordinance and hope that local government units adopt such an ordinance, which will involve children, parents and schools in the fight against human trafficking," said State Prosecutor Perez.

City ordinance

One such ordinance is Davao City's Ordinance No. 2491, an offshoot of its Children's Welfare Code. It bans minors from traveling alone without parental consent, allowing them to travel only with an adult sibling or a legal guardian.

The ban replicates the Department of Social Welfare and Development's rule requiring travelers under 18 to present a DSWD-approved consent form. The DSWD rule, however, applies only to international travel.

Davao City's ban covers all forms of travel, both local and international. Minors traveling alone can be stopped from boarding buses, ships and planes if they cannot present a permit to travel certification from the City Social Services Development Office. The permit is issued only after submission of a written parental consent, barangay clearance, valid ID and birth certificate.

"This is our weapon against trafficking," said Ruben.

For now, the focus is on Davao City's bus terminals and ports where trafficked persons will inevitably pass through—and for good reason. "Ports are crucial places to check trafficking of persons, especially women and children," said Gio Garcia, Visayan Forum coordinator for Davao. "These are the last places of visibility and protection."

(Luz Rimban is a director for special projects at the Ateneo de Manila University's Asian Center for Journalism. Yvonne Chua is a professor of journalism at the UP College of Mass Communication.)

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Canada seeks role in watching truce

DAVAO CITY—THE Canadian government said it was looking forward to participating in the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in a bid to boost its role in the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

The mandate of the IMT, a Malaysian-led body monitoring the ceasefire agreement between the government and the rebels, will expire in September.

But the extension of its mandate would be one of the agenda during the resumption of the peace talks in Kuala Lumpur next week, according to the government and sources from the MILF.

"We are very serious and we hope that one item on the agenda at the talks will be Canada's participation in the IMT," Tom Carroll, head of the Canadian International Development Agency (Cida), told reporters here on Friday.

Carroll said Canada had formally informed Manila of its interest in joining the IMT.

"The invitation has to come from the government, the MILF through the government of Malaysia, which will convene the whole process," he said.

Carroll said Canada's future representative to the IMT "will be a civilian guy."

"We want someone on the ground, to basically know what's going on. Be the eyes and ears, not just for Cida but for other donors as well," he said.

So far, it is only Japan, which has a civilian representative to the monitoring body.

Canada contributes about C$18 million in bilateral assistance to the Philippines each year and a total of C$22 million a year on total development assistance.

About 65 percent of the total aid is for Mindanao alone.

Canada has recently made a second contribution to the Mindanao Trust Fund.

"Suffice it to say, we have had and will continue to have a significant program in Mindanao," he said.

Carroll also revealed that Canada quietly launched a "Peace Fund."

"One other item as part of our overall peace and development agenda issue. We call it the Peace Fund," he said.

The "Peace Fund" is a small project facility with a total funding value of C$750,000.

Carroll said they will be funding proposals presented to them by civil society organizations, NGOs, academe, women's groups that have "a peace and development theme."

"It could be advocacy, could be communication, education. The project will range from C$25,000 to C$50,000 or about P1.2 to P2.2 million. Relatively small in global development assistance terms but not insignificant for organizations," Carroll said. *Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

MARINES walk past a bullet-riddled road as they patrol the site where 27 soldiers were killed in an attack by Moro gunmen.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Gov't agents foil terror plot by JI

KORONADAL CITY—GOVERNMENT security forces foiled what could have been another bloody attack in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat when they arrested a suspect linked to the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) on Friday, military authorities said yesterday.

The arrest of suspect Badrudin Guilison, who yielded three 60-mm shells when frisked, came a few days after Washington warned its citizens against traveling to Mindanao.

"Joint operatives of Task Force Talakudong and the 601st Brigade captured Badrudin Guilison, also known as Badz, inside the city's crowded public market around 6:45 p.m. through the help of alert civilians," Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana, chief of the military's Eastern Mindanao Command, said.

Obaniana said aside from the 60 mm projectiles, Guilison also yielded "some electronic tools."

He said the suspect later told arresting officers that an improvised explosive had already been set to explode at the public market.

"He (Guilison) disclosed during tactical interrogation that an improvised bomb was placed at the fruit stand section of the market, prompting our troops to conduct follow-up operation," Obaniana said.

He said Army experts, using sniffing dogs, later found the IED, which was fashioned out of two pounds of TNT, blasting cap, mortar booster, one-inch nails and a timer.

The IED, he said, had been successfully defused.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, Eastern Mindanao Command spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that Guilison was an identified member of the JI, which has been blamed for most of the attacks in Central Mindanao. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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Dreams disappear with soldiers' deaths

By Julie S. Alipala
Zamboanga City

IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUG. 8, Astor Potoy Sr. and his wife Wilfreda got an unexpected text message from their eldest son, Reco.

It was good news for the couple because Pfc Reco Potoy, 30, gunner of the Bravo Company, 33rd Infantry Battalion, decided to visit them after more than four months of assignment in Sulu.

Reco, claiming he wanted to get some rest from 10 days of operations, said he would be home on Aug. 12.

But Wilfreda also felt uncomfortable as her son rarely communicated with them.

"Reco only sent messages when there's an emergency," she said.

Astor Jr., also a soldier of the 33rd IB, said he escorted the unit of his elder brother before they jumped off to operation dawn of Aug. 8 in Maimbung town in Sulu.

"Before we parted ways, he tapped my shoulder saying 'Dong Jo (little brother Jojo), I want to go home and rest on Aug. 12, I hope you'll be allowed to have a pass so you can join me to be with Tata (father) and Nana (mother),'" the younger Astor said.

He just nodded and told his brother to be careful. "He looked so serious and so tired."

True to his promise, Reco returned to his parents. But this time, in a casket. He was killed in a clash with suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Maimbung on Aug. 9.

"Is this what you meant when you said you would be coming home to rest?" Wifreda wailed as she embraced Reco's casket.

Wilfreda said Reco last visited their hometown in Pinan, Zamboanga del Norte four months ago. During that visit, Reco tried to convince his father to return to his militia work as the allowance for Cafgu (Citizens Armed Forces Geographic Unit) members had been raised to P2,700.

Astor Sr. said Reco joined the Army so "we can survive."

"Life is very hard in the barrio, and I have four sons. I was a Cafgu then earning about P1,000 a month, which was not enough to feed the family or send them to school," he said.

But Reco failed to convince his father to return to the Cafgu. "I advised my husband that it was enough to have two sons in the military and in our family, so Astor is now into farming," Wilfreda said.

It was also Reco who convinced his brother, Astor Jr., to join the Army. "We were all proud. We would no longer be hungry," Wilfreda recalled.

A similar dream pushed Cpl. Vitto Patua to join the Army 11 years ago.

Patua, also a member of the 33rd IB, was also killed in the Aug. 9 ambush. "He told me he would retire from the service when our children finished schooling," Rhea, Patua's wife, said.

The Patuas have four children aged 1 to 14.

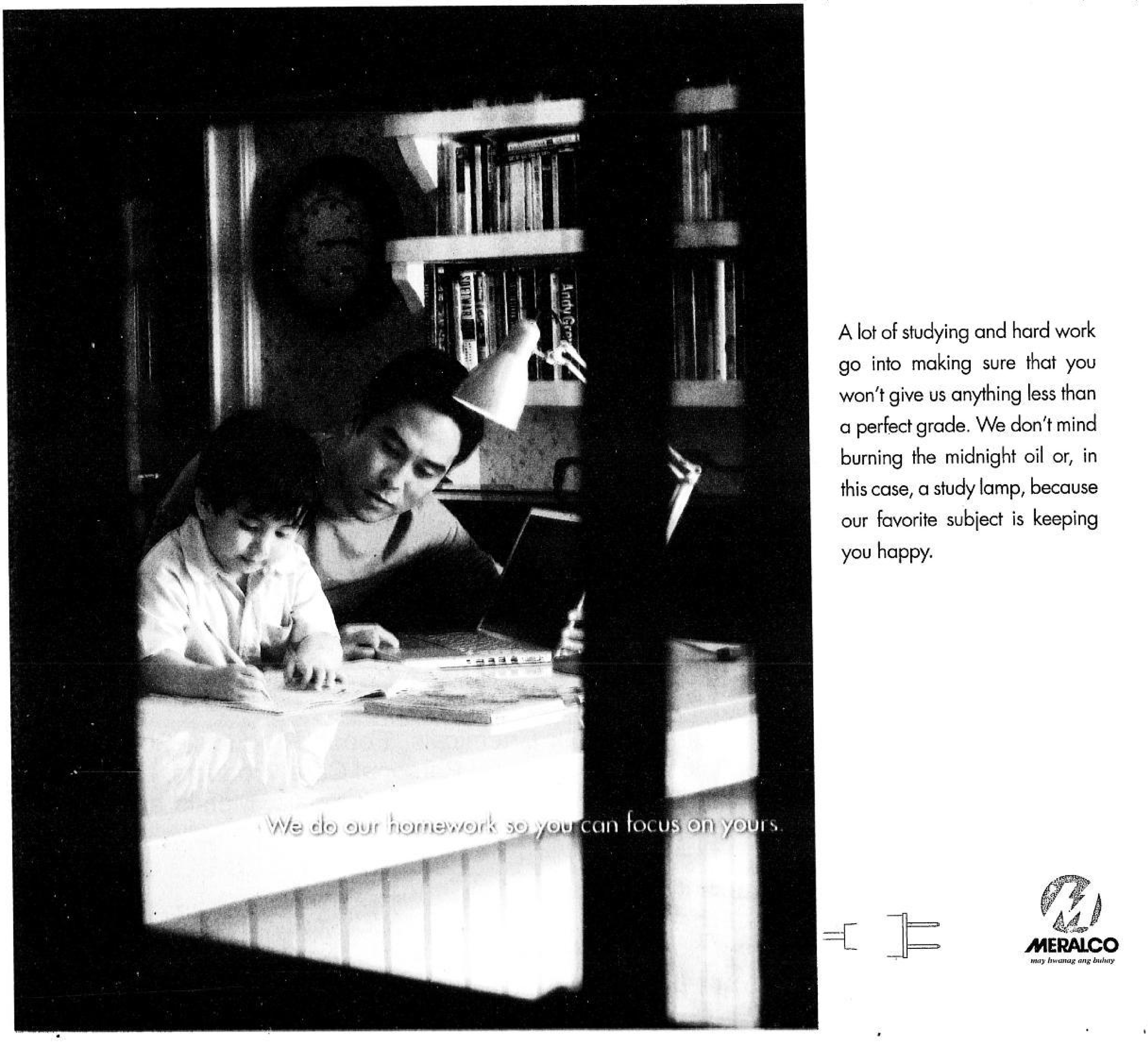
Rhea said her husband kept on availing loans for the children's education.

She said all these "investments" will be gone along with Vitto. She said Vitto joined the Army because he wanted a brighter future for their first born.

She will try to fulfill her husband's dream of having their children finish schooling, she said.

Warida Jammang, widow of Pfc Halid Jammang, is also concerned with her children, aged 3 and 2. She said her husband joined the Army to fulfill their dreams of building a house and sending their children to school. "But those are all gone. When they killed my husband, they also killed all our dreams," she said.

For these soldiers, it wasn't all about service to the country. They had dreams that died with them.



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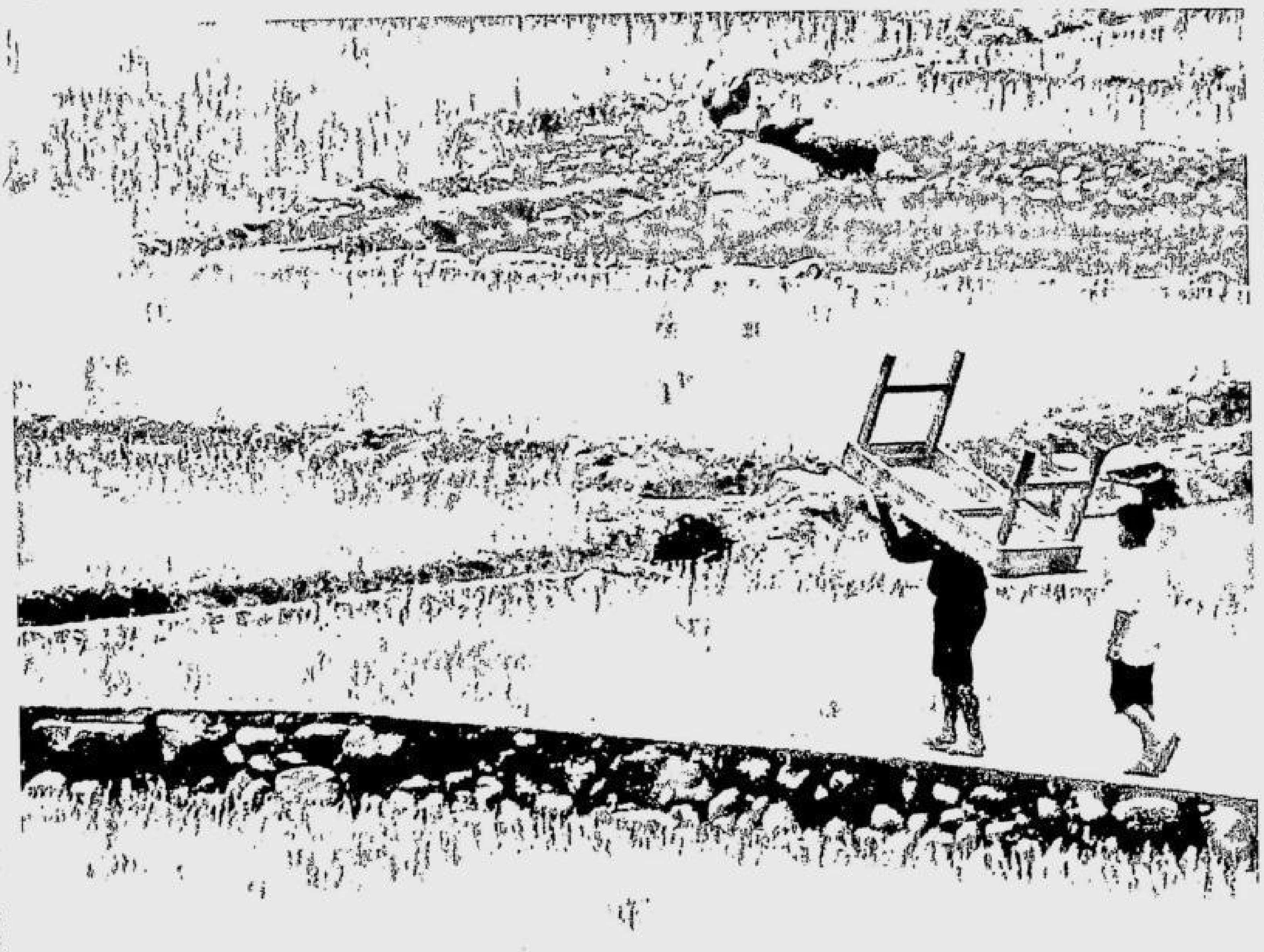
Study says chemicals killing Benguet farm soil

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon



A MAN crosses the "payuh" (rice terraces) of Sabangan in Mt. Province to bring a dining table to his house built amid the mountain farms. The centuries-old terraces of Mt. Province grow the native rice variety "kintoman."
EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—EXPERTS warned that the excessive use of farm chemicals might cut short the fertility and safety of the province's agricultural lands and river systems unless stiffer measures were imposed to curb the danger.

Dr. Carlito Laurean, of the Benguet State University (BSU) here, and Dr. Gaudelia Reyes, of Saint Louis University (SLU) in Baguio City, said they were also worried that the farmers' use of pesticides and commercial fertilizers had exposed their health to potential diseases.

"The chemical residues of pesticides and the metal content of fertilizers are always potentially fatal," Laurean said.

Heavy metal

Laurean, BSU's director of research, and Reyes, SLU's dean of the college of natural sciences, led a team that conducted a study on pesticide use and heavy metal contamination on vegetable land samples from this town, Buguias and Kapangan.

They revealed their findings before farmers and researchers who attended a farmers' forum sponsored by the Highland Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium at BSU's Agriculture Training Institute here on Aug. 17.

Lethal ingredients

Laurean and Reyes said their study, which included blood tests on 211 farmers, showed a very high incidence of pesticide and fertilizer use, mostly for the last 10 years.

Pesticides have lethal residues called organophospates, organochlorines and pyrethroids.

Fertilizers contain heavy metals that can cause cancer and mental retardation.

Despite the unabated use of farm inputs, laboratory findings showed that water and crop samples, such as potato tubers and cabbages, did not have pesticide residues, Laurean said.

He said soil samples from intensively cultivated farm areas contained heavy metal, like zinc, lead, mercury and cadmium, but they were all within the allowed limits.

Health effects

Reyes said farmers complained of various illnesses after spraying chemicals in their farms but said the diseases may or may not be directly related to chemical use.

The experts, however, cautioned vegetable industry leaders against relaxing and complacency despite these findings.

The fact remained that there was a high incidence of the use of pesticides and fertilizers that build up residues in farms, rivers and humans that would be costly in the future unless arrested.

"We were surprised to find out that there were isolated incidents of the use of red label pesticides, or highly toxic and banned chemicals," Laurean said.

Black market

He hinted at the existence of a black market that deals with banned pesticides.

Laurean also noted the farmers' refusal to use protective gear like gloves, goggles and masks.

"They wore boots to protect their feet but ignored (the need) to protect their eyes and noses from being exposed to chemicals," he said.

The fight against the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has ran into obstacles, including the marketing of toxic farm chemicals.

Ex-NPAs turn in NPA guerrillas to police

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MEMBERS OF the breakaway rebel group Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) on Wednesday turned over two alleged New People's Army guerillas to the provincial police.

Negros Occidental police director Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco identified the two as Joefrel Along, 19, of Toboso town in Negros Occidental, and Michael Celeste of Gawahon, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

Franco said the police, in turn, released the two to their parents.

But Fred Caña of Karapatan-Negros said that Along and Celeste were actually reported missing by their families since Aug. 12.

Caña said the two men were members of the National Federation of Sugarcane Workers-Negros in Barangay San Pablo, Manapla.

Victorino Sumulong, RPA-ABB spokesperson, said Along and Celeste were NPA guerrillas operating in Cadiz and Silay who sought the help of an RPA-ABB member because they wanted to surrender.

The two were alleged members of Squad 3 under Ka Mervin of the NPA Boy Gatmaitan Command who said they could not stand hiding constantly, being hungry, or on the run, amid constant military operations, Sumulong added.

Both also denied being members of NFSW, Sumulong said.

The two were brought by the person they approached to Ka Remar, RPA-ABB commander in the second district of Negros Occidental, in Barangay San Pablo, Manapla on Sunday.

Ka Remar, in turn, brought them to the police, Sumulong said.

The two were allegedly among the NPA guerrillas who, on July 15, figured in an encounter with Scout Rangers in Hacienda Caridad, Barangay E. Lopez, Silay City, Sumulong added.

Franco said Karapatan members went to the police headquarters yesterday but he did not release the two to them since they were not their families.

Pangasinan cracks down on unlicensed quarrying

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—The provincial government has warned quarry operators in Pangasinan that they will "face the full force of the law" if they were caught hauling sand, gravel and other mineral products without the necessary permits.

Nestor Batalla, officer in charge of the newly formed provincial natural resources regulatory group (NRRG), said his office has begun putting up billboards in various quarry sites in the province "to send the message that the provincial government is serious in its campaign."

"Would you believe that in six months—from January to June this year—there was only one who violated the natural resources law?" said Gov. Amado Espino Jr., quoting a report of the defunct provincial inter-agency mineral products and aggregates conservation team (Impact).

Espino has abolished the Impact and replaced it with the NRRG.

"Quarry operators in Pangasinan have been quarrying improperly, destroying our rivers in the process. There are even quarry sites where the roads have been destroyed," Espino said.

At least 123 quarry operators are registered in the province but Espino said he was told only 26 were active.

"How do we know that the others are not operating? When I saw the names of those who were supposed to be inactive, they belonged to construction companies. Only the names of their representatives appeared in the list," he said.

Batalla said like in Pampanga, quarry operation in Pangasinan is a major source of revenue.

But last year, the province only earned P2.7 million.

"In Pampanga, it's P1 million a day, although we know that most quarry operators are from Metro Manila. But in Pangasinan, with a vast area, I could not believe that the share of the provincial government is only P2 million," Espino said. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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Q. What is the BL-5C battery issue in Nokia phones all about?

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Q. Why has Nokia issued a product advisory?

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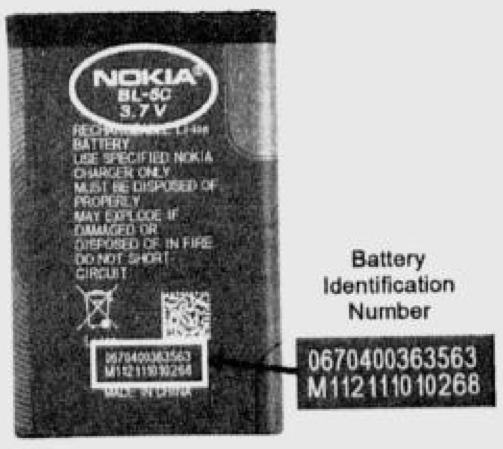

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Q. What do I do if I have a BL-5C battery?

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MUSES. Humperdinck is flanked at yesterday's press conference by Filipino beauties, from left, Gionna Cabrera, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2005; Maggie Wilson, Bb. Pilipinas World 2007 and Nadia Shami, Bb. Pilipinas International 2007. ROMY HOMILLADA

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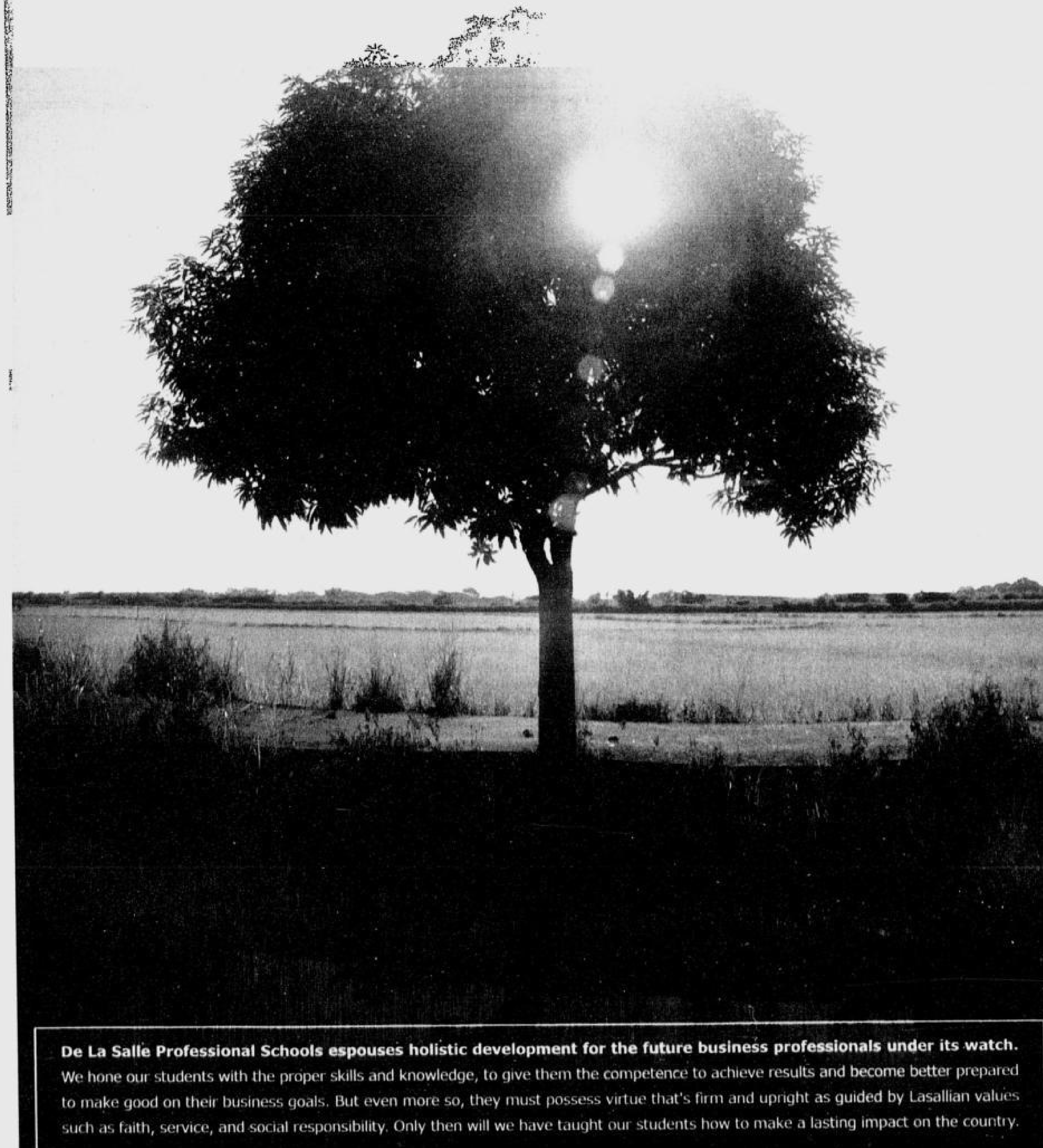

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Engelbert Humperdinck: 'The voice is still the same'

By Cora Lucas
Entertainment

"MY VOICE IS STILL THERE AND IT'S still the same, thank God," says 71-year-old British balladeer Engelbert Humperdinck when he met the press at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza yesterday to promote his world concert tour.

When Humperdinck steps on stage at the Araneta Coliseum tonight, he will be crooning a string of his old hits in an evening of reminiscing. He is not on a musical makeover, he says, but would dish out songs from his usual repertoire—a lot of up-tempo and a little bit of rock.

"It's the kind of show I take all over the world," Humperdinck says of the Philippine leg of his 40th Anniversary Tour Concert. "I will be singing standards and songs from my 77th album that celebrates my 40th year in show business. It's a collection of songs from British songwriters like Eric Clapton, Paul McCartney and John Lennon called 'Winding Road.' My life has been a winding road. I hope it never ends because I had a great journey."

His world tour would take him next to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, the US, Europe, Great Britain, Germany and Belgium.

Younger singers

The singer was scheduled to perform at the Araneta Coliseum in June last year, but the concert was cancelled after he was suddenly taken ill. Tickets to that show were sold out.

Humperdinck is happy to note that the younger generation of singers has warmed to his music, notably Italian classical crossover singer Andrea Bocelli, who recorded "A Man Without Love," and Canadian crooner Michael Buble, who did his version of "Cuando, Cuando, Cuando."

"These singers make my songs more popular for me," he says. "The ballads would never die. A good song would always stand out in any selection of material. I choose music that has a lasting appeal. People still sing my songs in karaoke bars."

Arnold Dorsey

Humperdinck, born Arnold George Dorsey, adopted the name of the German opera composer known for his fairy tale opera "Hansel and Gretel."

"I tried it with my real name but it didn't work," he says of his struggling years in the 1950s. "But my Humperdinck is as good as Schwarzenegger. I chose it. Like my long sideburns. I started it."

Born in India on May 2, 1936, Humperdinck's family migrated to Leicester, England when he was 10. His interest in music began at 11 when he started playing the saxophone.

Singing songs that spin visions of love and passion, Humperdinck jokes that his most popular song, "Release Me," is, ironically, a "divorce song." He says it was when he recorded "Release Me" in a smooth ballad style in 1967 "that my life began."

A string of other soul-stirring, light-hearted hits followed—"There Goes My Everything," "The Last Waltz," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," "The Way It Used To Be," "After the Lovin'," "Am I That Easy To Forget?," "The Shadow Of Your Smile," "Cuando, Cuando, Cuando" and "Spanish Eyes."

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MERALCO
Sibol School

A SIBOL Preschool, the 14th to be built by the Manila Electric Co., recently opened its doors to children from a Gawad Kalinga community in Antipolo City.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

STARTING 'EM YOUNG

Urban kids get values education from Sibol preschools

By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

SOME 100 CHILDREN AGED 3 to 6 now have access to free, quality and values-based education with the opening of the Meralco Sibol Preschool in Gawad Kalinga's Manalim community in Antipolo City.

This is the 14th Sibol preschool since 2006 to be built by the Manila Electric Co. in GK villages located in depressed areas of the company's franchise sites.

The other schools are located in Mandaluyong City, Pasig, Marikina, Caloocan City, San Mateo in Rizal, Novaliches, San Pablo City in Laguna and Marilao, Bulacan. Four more are targeted for construction by yearend.

The one-story school building in Antipolo City will have three class shifts, with each class composed of 30 to 35 students.

Meralco will shoulder the teachers' monthly allowances and the school's utility bills for a year. The homeowners association and the beneficiary families will then take over in cooperation with Gawad Kalinga's caretaker team led by Couples for Christ members in the area.

The children will also receive free learning aids such as storybooks, educational toys and school supplies.

Parents get involved, too

According to Christopher Yap, program director of Meralco Millennium Foundation Inc. which responds to the social needs of the power firm's customers, parents are required to assist the teachers in organizing school activities.

There are also training programs for teachers, parents and other community members to boost their guidance and mentoring skills and make them aware of the concepts of early childhood education and management.

Apart from Meralco, other private organizations have also built over 300 Sibol preschools in different GK villages nationwide to help solve the shortage of preschool facilities in the country.

The Early Child Care and Development Act or Republic Act No. 8980 requires the government to provide early childhood education to 5-year-old Filipino children. Based on the latest data, however, of the estimated 2.2 million children of preschool age in 2003, only 1.688 million or 77 percent were served by formal preschools and day care centers.

Of the figure, only 42,000 or two percent of 5-year-olds were in preschools ran by the Department of Education.

The term "*sibol* (growth or blossoming)" underscores a critical need to instill in young children the values of responsibility and discipline as they prepare for entry into formal school.

Psychologists say that children's experiences during the formative years between infancy and age 7 are crucial in building their self-esteem, emotional stability and interpersonal skills. At this stage, they easily absorb whatever they observe, experience and learn at home and from their environment.

Elementary counterpart

Sibol's counterpart in the grade school level is another GK education program called "*Sagip* (save)," which provides tutorial lessons, sports and creative workshops and values formation activities for street children ages 7 to 13.

Another program called "*Siga* (toughie)" grants scholarships to older children in at-risk or vulnerable situations that expose them to drug addiction, prostitution and delinquency.

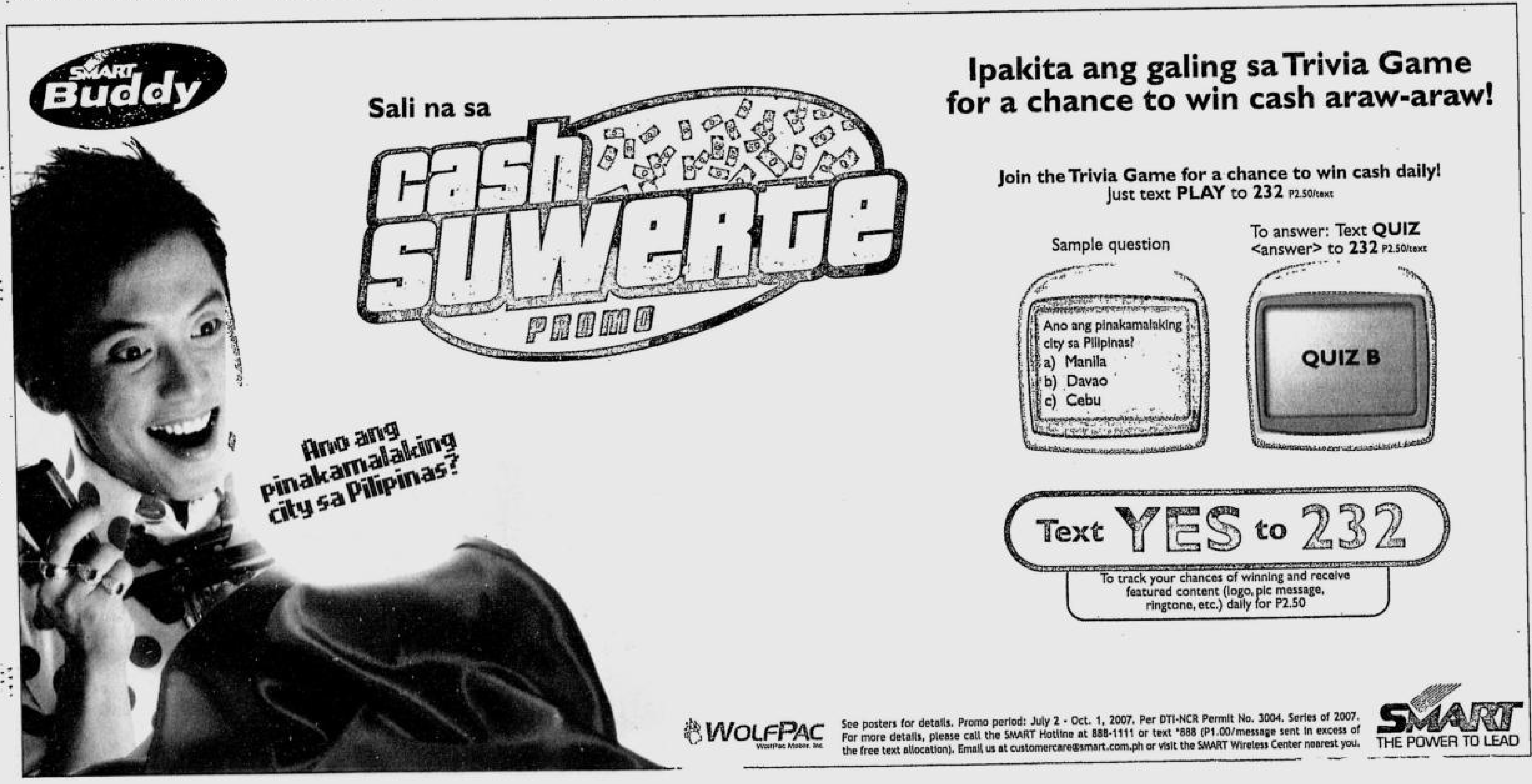
Ofelia Diwa, mother of a student at the Meralco Sibol Preschool in Caloocan City, said she was impressed by the changes she saw in the students.

SOME Meralco officials and employees helped in the school's construction by doing odd jobs.

"I'm happy the kids have become role models. They are growing up to be good persons. Some kids who used to swear no longer do so because they have realized it is wrong. They have also learned how to say sorry when they get into a fight," she narrated.

The neighborhood association involved in the construction of the school has also developed a sense of ownership and commitment to keeping it going as they learn to appreciate the issues of access and quality.

"The neighborhood association learns about cooperation because they take care of the school," Diwa said.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"WE SHOULD not allow our OFWs to receive a meager income with all the hardships they have to endure. They deserve higher than $150 monthly. The government must ensure the implementation of this policy."
RICHARD GORDON, *August 2006*

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

22-year-old Pinay is marketing whiz in DHL Singapore

She's charming, doing great designing and marketing concepts for a global express delivery firm, and her idol is Gokongwei

ON THE JOB: Ro Chua represents the Philippines in the 14th International Harvard Project for Asia and the Pacific Conference in Tokyo, 2005.

By Karlo Jose R. Pineda
Contributor

WHAT WERE YOU doing when you were 22?

That would be a relevant question to instantly pop into one's mind when conversing with Roslyn Chua, a young Filipina who is having the time of her professional life as marketing analyst in DHL Asia Pacific in Singapore.

While most youngsters are out in the clubs partying or are just starting to scratch their marks in the so-called real world, Ro, as she is fondly called, has already impressed her international bosses with the way she processes marketing schemes. The projects that went under her supervision gave satisfaction to DHL clients at the same time significantly upped the proceeds of the company.

Young achiever

"I conduct data analytics and conceptualize direct marketing program recommendations for countries to implement in a structured and strategic manner by managing the whole customer pipeline. To date, data-driven marketing has contributed 945,571 euros in revenue," wrote Ro in her résumé.

She tops her work by engaging 17 Asia Pacific countries in designing their product strategy and laying out their programs. She has also spearheaded the implementation of DHL's Festive Campaign in 2006 which impacted China, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka.

Since she was a kid, Ro has already been familiar with the ropes of dealing with different markets. From working for a family-owned school and office supplies business and selling ballpens when she was in grade four, her early experiences with entrepreneurship stretches long to her elementary days wherein she was initiated with concepts like "cost" and "revenue" by her father, who runs the family business with her uncles.

Ateneo graduate

"Ever since grade school, my dad has involved me in business," Ro jovially recalled. "There were even times when he would scold me for selling ballpens below cost."

"He would relay the story of his youthful days when he would eat *lugaw* with *toyo*," she added, "then he would tell me to persevere so as not to experience that."

Despite the entrepreneurial exposure, she did not like venturing into business in the beginning. Her dad wanted her to take up a business-related course rather than to pursue her plans of studying architecture in the University of Santo Tomas.

But there were no regrets for, as she said, "I am lucky to end up loving whatever my dad directs me to do." Soon enough, her love for business management paid off.

In 2006, Ro graduated from Ateneo de Manila, finishing a degree of Bachelor of Science Major in Management. A year before that, she bagged third place in Procter and Gamble's BrandWars competition and was hailed by MarkProf Foundation as one of the Top 25 Marketing Management Trainees of the Year 2005.

Shuns child wonder tag

Putting the feather on her cap, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) in the same year of her graduation named her a national winner and the class valedictorian in the Agora Youth Awards, the highest marketing award given in the Philippines. Now, she is associated with PMA as an active member of its Youth and Academe Committee.

In October 2006, Ro flew to Singapore after passing two interviews conducted by DHL (one of which is a case study). She was interfaced with the company through the internship program of AIESEC, the world's largest student organization, which she availed of during college.

Despite achieving major feats in such a sweet age, Ro humbly shuns the thought of herself being treated as a child wonder, so to speak. Instead, she upends being typecast as a kid in the workplace by harnessing her gleanings from her treasured business and economics books and operating things the way a seasoned marketer would do.

"Sometimes people treat me like a kid because I look like I'm 18, and the people who work in Singapore are generally old. But then I just prove myself by working and enjoying what I do," said the youngest member of the DHL Singapore team.

As she is employed in a land where discipline is a known custom, she adopts to the systematic atmosphere of the office. Her four-month stint in Home Beauty Center (HBC) as a junior brand manager, which came before her overseas occupation, helped her develop a well-ordered sense in work.

People skills

"With HBC, I had to take care of a lot of details," she said, pointing out that as brand manager she was in charge of things like implementation, brand activation, and brand merchandising which according to her entailed beating tight deadlines.

Ro also noted that in her current job, it was inevitable to meet a lot of people, specifically big shots and luminaries. And by this time, she has mastered the art of people relations, evident when she confidently carried herself upon meeting and greeting with the Kennedys in a certain DHL-organized event.

Interestingly, with all the responsibilities handled by such youthful hands, Ro still finds time for the beach, traveling, and occasional night-outs. She is also into Wealth Management and trading US stocks and options.

Just like home

According to her, toiling in Singapore is very much like working in her homeland. The only difference is that you call your superiors, who you could frequently share an elevator ride on the way to the office with, by their first names, not sir or ma'am. She also indicated that her present working environment is a little quieter and more independent in nature compared to when she was employed back in HBC.

In DHL-Singapore, she said, you get to perform on your own and by 5 p.m., you should be heading home because Singaporeans associate going overtime with inefficiency. Why work on extra hours when you can squeeze everything in the specified schedule?

Further, she claimed that in Singapore, where the cost of living is more manageable, she gets to save 1/3 of her salary.

It also helps that her family is very supportive of her work. They get to reunite every once in a while, which then solves homesickness, a common problem encountered by most OFWs.

"And Singapore is a safe place," she remarked. "I think my parents are more scared when I'm here in the Philippines, that I get frequent calls from my dad whenever I go out."

She continued, "Plus, there are many Filipinos in Singapore too, which makes me feel closer to home."

Ro is at present sharing an apartment with a Malaysian-Indian colleague who is also working in DHL.

Learning Mandarin

Another year with DHL and then off to bigger breaks is ideally what Ro plans for the distant future. She also wants to go to China to further enhance her global disposition and to have a fuller grasp of Mandarin, a language she has been studying since kindergarten.

Asked when she would finally settle in the country, she said that she still aims to finish her MA hopefully in Northwestern University either in Hong Kong or in Chicago before doing so. When she comes home, she wishes to develop more Health-Lifestyle Inc., her self-managed business which supplies fresh sugarcane juice to food establishments in Greenhills, Glorietta, Trinoma, and many others, and someday institute a conglomerate *a la* John Gokongwei Jr.

"In the Philippines he (Gokongwei) is my idol. Like him, I want to help my fellow Filipinos by providing them with jobs.

"And maybe I too could be an ambassador in the finance department to be of service to our country," she said.

The Nora Aunor case

IMFO
Lourdes Santos Tancinco

NORA AUNOR WAS REported to have been married to her same-sex manager. The varying reactions from the community are not surprising. Aside from the shock and the effect on the moral sensibilities of many, does it really matter legally whether this is true or not? Maybe it does have legal consequence but for purpose of this article, let us assume that her same-sex partner is a US citizen; will this confer any immigration benefit to her?

Marriage is still defined under US federal law as the union between a man and a woman. This definition is found in the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The US Immigration and Nationality Act governs the immigrant petition of spouses and requires that a spouse must be a person of the opposite sex.

There are progressive jurisdictions that now define marriage as the voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of others, thus, allowing same sex marriages. These jurisdictions end discrimination against gay men and lesbians in marriages. Same sex marriages are legally binding in the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada and South Africa. In the US, only the state of Massachusetts recognize same-sex marriage and allows same-sex couple to marry, based on the controversial court decision in 2003. But these marriages are not recognized by other states and Massachusetts law prohibits nonresidents from seeking marriage licenses there.

Transsexual US citizen spouse

In immigration law, for a petition by a US citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse to become valid, the marriage should have been recognized in the jurisdiction where it was solemnized. If all five countries and Massachusetts recognized these marriages as valid, will it then be appropriate for the US Immigration Service to allow the petitioning of spouses of same-sex marriages?

It is not surprising that despite the recent trends arising in some progressive jurisdictions about same-sex marriages, it is still expressly prohibited in the immigration context as it is deemed in violation of public policy. A marriage that is against public policy may not be the basis for immigration even if the marriage is valid in the country where it was celebrated.

In 2005, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) interpreted expansively the definition of marriage under immigration law in the case of Matter of Lovo-Lara. In that case the US citizen was effectively and legally changed through a post operative transsexual procedure from male to female. She then, petitioned her spouse who she married in North Carolina. The BIA said that the marriage is valid for immigration purpose. However, this ruling is very limited in scope and is not binding as an authority.

Immigrant Options

The US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) policy on this matter is very clear. In its written memoranda, the USCIS made it clear that same-sex marriages are still considered ineligible for spousal petitions. It also emphasized that prohibition extends to petitions filed by those who have undergone sex reassignment surgery.

Notwithstanding the express prohibition regarding same-sex marriages, there are still US citizen petitioners who attempt to file immigrant petitions for their same-sex spouses. The filing of a petition for same-sex spouses is not advisable considering the legal obstacles that are presented above. In addition, there may be serious immigration consequences if a petition is filed. If a same-sex couple enters into a valid marriage in the Netherlands and one of the parties is a US citizen, filing a petition will only complicate entry of the other spouse to the US. This may be an indication of immigrant intent and may be denied entry to the US.

If the lesbians, gay, bisexuals and transgender's marriage to a US citizen is not recognized, it does not mean that they have no other options of migrating to the US. Of course, there are different options of obtaining US immigrant visas either through employment or family-based petitions. Just like any foreign national wanting to enter the US, they may also qualify to enter the US by obtaining any of the nonimmigrant visas available if they meet eligibility requirements. Once in the US, it is worth mentioning that some jurisdictions in the US gives just treatment to same-sex couples. California and other states such as Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey, Hawaii and Maine have civil unions or domestic partnership laws that provide many of the benefits of marriage.

(IMFO stands for Immigration Information. Tancinco is the immigration lawyer of Nora Aunor in the US. She may be reached at telephone no. (0632) 887-7177 or through email law@tancinco.com).

180 Chinese miners trapped in flooded shaft

BEIJING—RESCUERS BATTLED Saturday to reach more than 180 miners trapped underground by flash flooding in eastern China, but officials warned the men had little chance of survival.

Torrential rains triggered flooding which breached a river levee and sent water cascading into the mine in Shandong province via an old shaft, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Wang Ziqi, director of the Shandong coal mine safety administration board, said the trapped men had only slim chances of survival and relatives said they were expecting the worst.

"There are very slim chances for them to survive because it has been flooded and it is very difficult to pump out the water," a relative of a miner at the colliery, surnamed Liu, told AFP in Beijing.

Liu, whose husband was involved in the rescue effort, added: "The relatives of people trapped have been waiting all night at the front door of the site."

Officials said 756 miners had been underground when the water swept in. Of those, 584 were rescued, leaving 172 trapped.

They said another nine people were trapped in a nearby mine after similar flooding while 86 were able to escape.

The flooding on Friday afternoon followed hours of downpours, and rescue work was hampered by further rains which fell during the evening and Saturday.

By Saturday morning, according to rescue headquarters cited by Xinhua, all working places underground had been inundated.

Senior officials from China's State Administration of Work Safety rushed to oversee rescue efforts at the Zhangzhuang mine in Xintai city, 450 km south of Beijing.

Xinhua said 2,000 troops, armed police and miners had closed the breach in the Wen river levee.

The authorities ordered all mines in the area to stop work, while the work safety watchdog issued an emergency notice urging all mines to take preventive measures against possible flooding.

China's coal mines are the most dangerous in the world and fatal accidents happen almost every day. *AFP*

Toys 'R' Us stops sales of China-made bibs

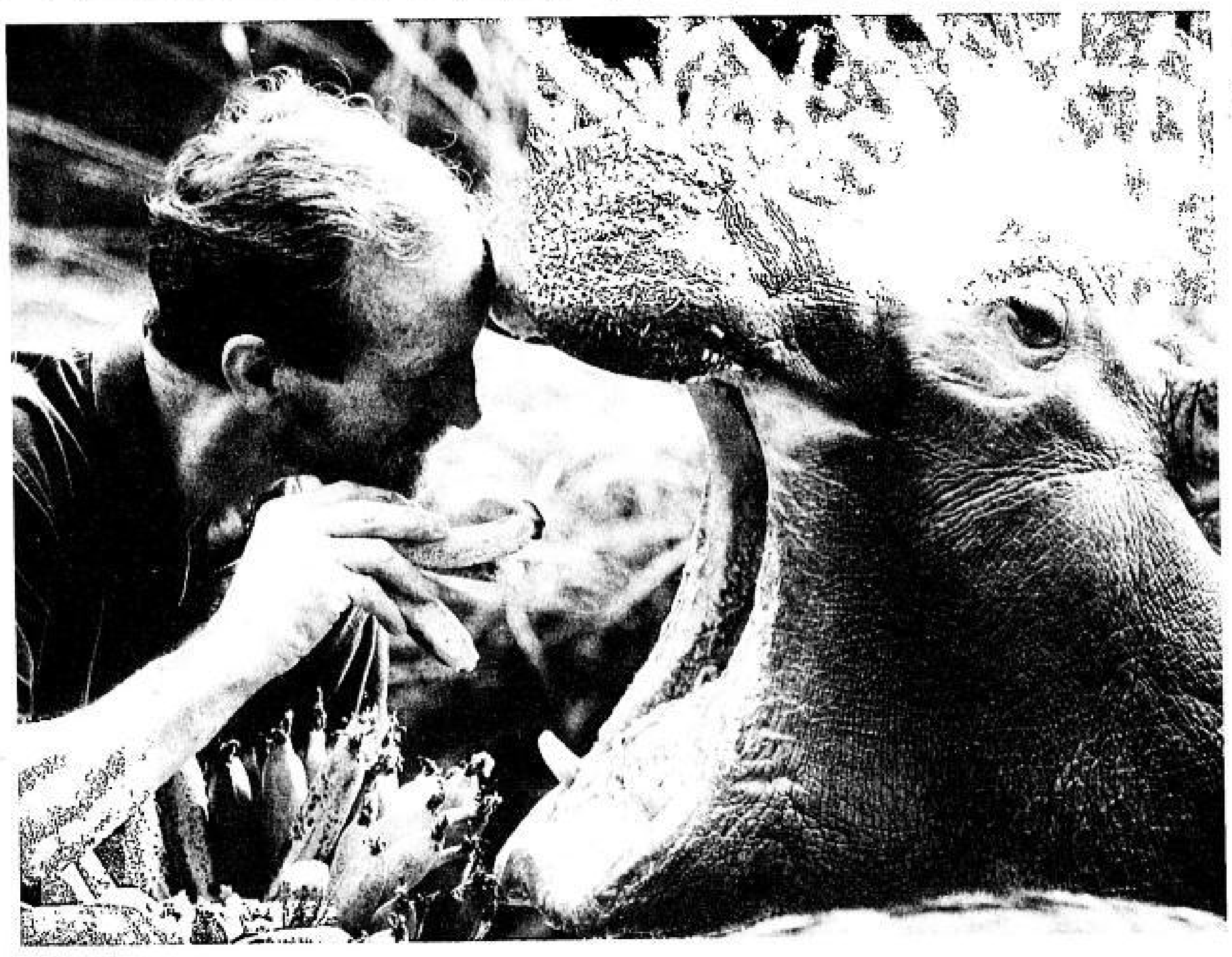
NEW YORK—RETAILER TOYS "R" US SAID on Friday it removed all Hamco Inc.'s vinyl baby bibs, which were made in China, from its shelves as a precaution after an independent tester found samples of bibs containing excessive amounts of lead.

Toys "R" Us said in a statement that the bibs were marketed under the Koala Baby, Especially for Baby and Disney Baby labels. Media reports earlier in the week said the inexpensive bibs were made in China and imported for Toys "R" Us by Hamco Baby Products.

Toys "R" Us and Crown Crafts Inc., which owns Hamco, could not be reached for comment.

The Center for Environmental Health (CEH) in California said in a statement, "We appreciate Toys 'R' Us taking this strong action to protect children. Vinyl is a poison plastic that has no place around a baby's neck," said CEH associate director Charlie Pizarro. "We hope the company disposes of the toxic bibs safely."

Hamco said in a statement late on Friday that it applied the testing standards required by California Proposition 65 to the vinyl baby bibs. Proposition 65 is an initiative approved by voters in 1986 to require companies to issue warnings before exposing people to "known carcinogens or reproductive toxins." *Reuters*



HELLO, IS ANYONE THERE?
Animal keeper Uwe Fritzmann feeds hippopotamus Gregor with bananas on Aug. 17 in the Berlin Zoo. The bananas were grown in the zoo and harvested on Friday. Berlin Zoo, an oasis of green in the heart of City West, was opened in 1844 and claims to be the home of the largest number of species of all the world's zoos. AP

Rescue at US mine halts after 3 die

LOS ANGELES—UNDERGROUND EFFORTS to reach six miners buried beneath a Utah mountain were suspended indefinitely on Friday following a tragic cave-in that left three rescuers dead and six injured, officials said.

Attempts to burrow through to the trapped workers at the Genwal Mine in Crandall Canyon were halted after officials ruled conditions at the mine were too dangerous to continue in the wake of Thursday's accident.

"We have suspended the underground portion of the rescue operation," said Richard Stickler, head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

A team of experts was being assembled in an effort to determine what could be done to protect rescuers, Stickler said.

Stickler blamed the cave-in on a "seismic bump," which had caused a 10-meter section of the tunnel wall to explode inwards, burying nine workers under tons of rock and coal.

"The force of that blast completely destroyed the ground support we had put in place," Stickler said. "We had put in the strongest ground-support system ... obviously it wasn't adequate."

Utah Governor Jon Huntsman had earlier demanded that the operation should be halted unless the safety of miners—who are digging at a depth of around 450 meters—could be guaranteed.

"It has gone from a tragedy to a catastrophe," Huntsman told CNN. "We shouldn't allow another person in the underground mine until we can ensure their safety. No one wants the lives of these heroes to be lost in vain. *AFP*

Saddam's wife and daughter sought by Interpol

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—AN INTERPOL arrest order for Saddam Hussein's eldest daughter and his first wife has been circulated, Iraqi officials said Friday.

The move came a year after the Iraqi authorities put the daughter, Raghad Saddam Hussein, and her mother, Sajida Khairalla Tulfa, on a "most wanted" list of 41 people accused of providing support to insurgents in Iraq.

Iraqi officials would not discuss the specific charges against the women, and Interpol officials could not be reached for comment. But Basam Ridha al-Hussaini, the Iraqi government's adviser to the special tribunal that tried and executed Saddam last year, confirmed that Interpol was circulating the two women's names.

The BBC quoted Iraqi Interior Ministry officials as saying Interpol had notified its members of the arrest order on Friday. The Iraqis' list of 41 suspects was headed by Izzat Ibrahim, a deputy of Saddam's and the highest-ranking former Iraqi official still believed to be on the run. It also included other senior members of Saddam's Baath Party.

Raghad helped organize her father's defense at his trial.

It is unclear whether Rahad will face arrest in Jordan, where she lives in an upscale part of the capital, Amman. Jordan's ruler, King Abdullah II, granted Raghad and her sister Rana refuge when they fled Syria in mid-2003, shortly after their father's government fell. There is still popular support for Saddam in Jordan, particularly among its Sunni majority.

Raghad, who has five children, including a son named Saddam, lives in a two-story sandstone villa in Amman's wealthy hilltop district of Abdoun. Her mother spends much of her time in Qatar, and Raghad makes regular trips there to visit her mother and other relatives. She rarely speaks in public, an apparent condition of her exile. But she did make a rare appearance at a rally in Amman just after her father's execution, telling 500 demonstrators, "I thank you for honoring Saddam the martyr."

A member of Raghad's staff confirmed Friday night that she and her mother were in Jordan. "Of course she is aware of this," said the aide, who was not authorized to speak publicly. "She heard the news like everyone else." *NYT*

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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)
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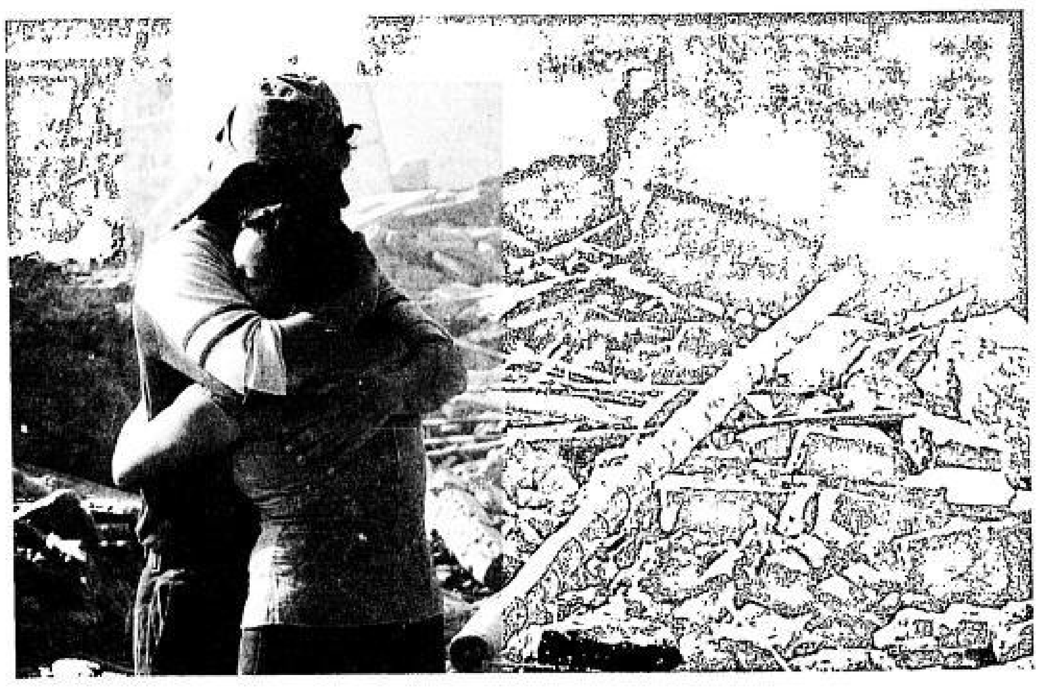
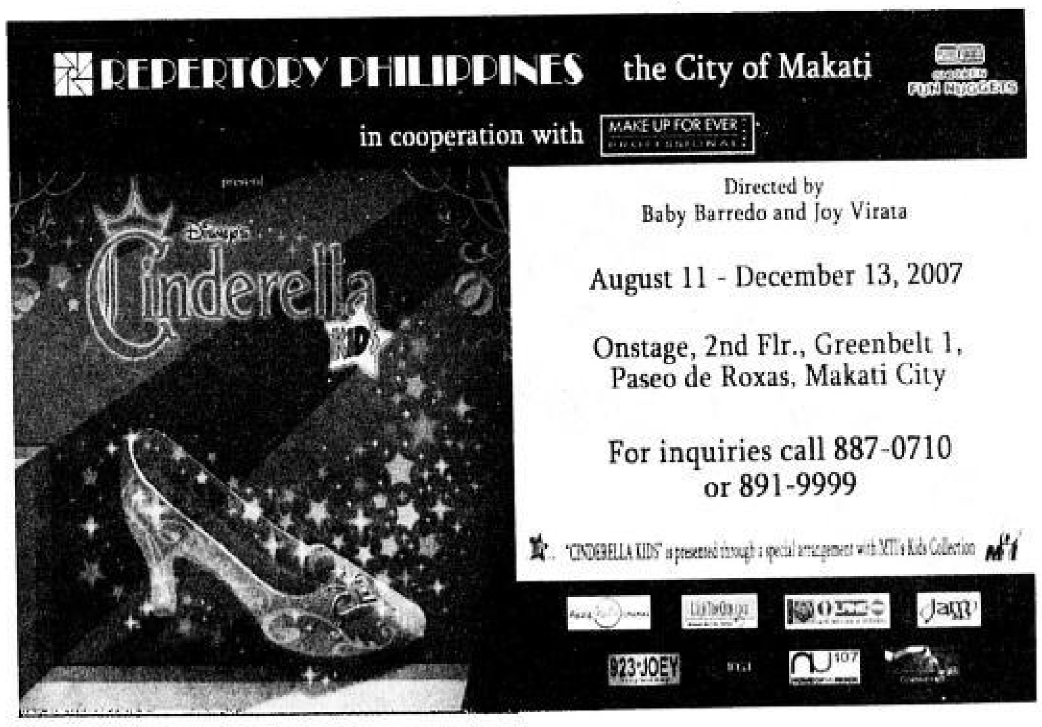


DEVASTATION
Couple embrace each other in front of a house destroyed by the earthquake that shook southern Peru, in Pisco, on Aug. 17. Peruvians frustrated over slow emergency aid looted pharmacies and scuffled in food lines on Friday as rescuers picked through rubble for survivors two days after the massive quake killed at least 510 people. AP



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Chinese flocking to a new frontier: Africa

LILONGWE, MALAWI—WHEN YANG Jie left home at 18, he was doing what people from China's hardscrabble Fujian province have done for generations: emigrating in search of a better living overseas.

What set him apart was his destination. Instead of the traditional adopted homelands like the United States and Europe, where Fujianese have settled by the hundreds of thousands, he chose southern Africa, making his way to this small landlocked country.

"Before I left China," said Yang, now 25, "I thought Africa was all one big desert," a place of terrible heat. So he figured ice cream would naturally be in high demand, and with money pooled from relatives and friends, he created his own factory at the edge of Lilongwe, Malawi's capital. Malawi's climate, in fact, is subtropical, but that has not stopped his ice cream company from becoming the country's biggest.

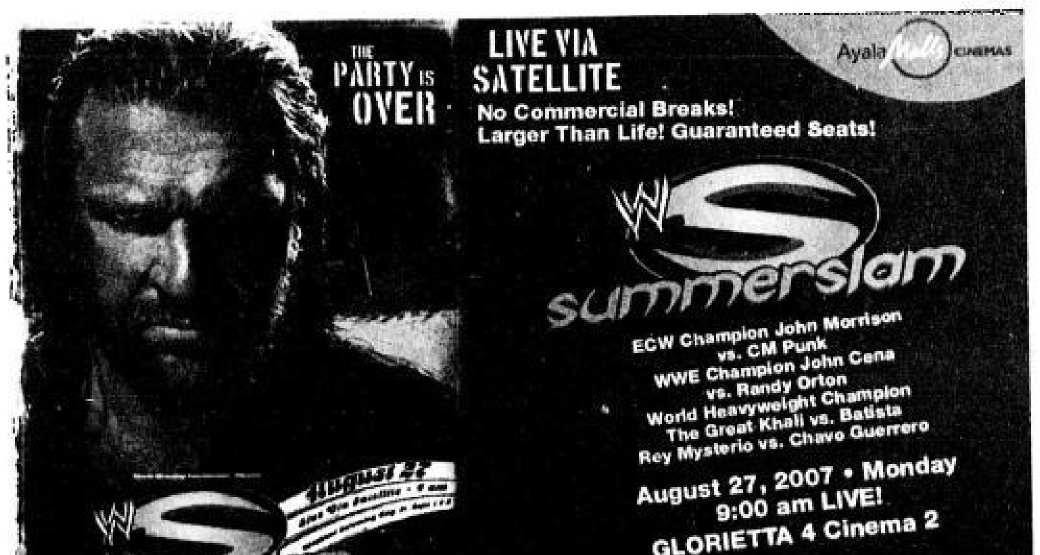
Hundreds of thousands of Chinese have discovered Africa and set off to do business there. The Xinhua News Agency recently estimated that at least 750,000 Chinese were working or living for extended periods on the continent, a reflection of burgeoning economic ties between China and Africa that reached $55 billion in trade in 2006, compared with less than $10 million a generation earlier.

During the previous wave of Chinese interest in Africa, in the 1960s and '70s, an era of radical socialism and proclaimed Third World solidarity, European and American companies held sway over economies across most of the continent. Here and there, though, the Chinese made their presence felt, often as a curious sight: drably dressed, state-run work brigades that built stadiums, railroads and highways, often crushing rocks and performing other heavy labor by hand.

Today, the Western presence has steadily dwindled, and essentially consists nowadays of relief experts working international agencies or oil workers, living behind high walls in heavily guarded enclaves.

Yang relayed news back home of abundant opportunities in a part of the world where many economies lie undeveloped or in ruins, and where even in the richer countries many things taken for granted in the developed world await builders and investors.

Conditions like these often deter Western investors, but for many budding Chinese entrepreneurs, Africa's emerging economies are inviting precisely because they seem small and accessible. *NYT*



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Russia revives strategic bomber patrols

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR V. PUTIN said Friday that the Russian Air Force would resume regular, long-range patrols by nuclear-capable bombers over the world's oceans, resuming the practice after a 15-year hiatus in another sign of Russia's growing assertiveness.

In the first flight, 14 bombers and six supporting airplanes took off at midnight on Friday, Putin said, in remarks carried on state television. Putin said such patrols would continue "from this day on."

The sortie on Friday included Tu-160 and Tu-95 airplanes, known by their Nato appellations as Blackjacks and Bears, according to a statement posted on the Russian Defense Ministry website.

The Russian bombers were flying Friday over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and the North Pole, and were being escorted by Nato fighter jets, the site said, recalling the standoffs of the Cold War.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia would periodically send its aging bomber fleet on missions, but only during major military training exercises; the country was too poor to fly the planes often.

That is no longer the case. Now the bombers will regularly fly missions far from Russian soil separately from scheduled training exercises. Putin suggested on Friday that the decision was a response to military threats to Russia.

The American response on Friday was muted. "Militaries around the world engage in a variety of different activities," Gordon D. Johndroe, a White House spokesperson, told reporters in Crawford, Texas, according to a transcript. "It's not entirely surprising that the Russian Air Force, the Russian military, might engage in this kind of activity."

Russia has 79 strategic aircraft, capable of carrying 900 cruise missiles, Russian television reported, far fewer than at the height of the Cold War.

Still, the resumption of bomber flights was the latest in a series of assertive gestures by Russia, emboldened by windfall petroleum wealth and angered over what it has called American and Nato aggressiveness, including plans for a missile-defense system in the Czech Republic and Poland, analysts said.

"It's a symbolic gesture but it stands for something very real, which is a resurgent Russia," said Cliff Kupchan, a Russia expert at the Eurasia Group, a political risk advisory and consulting firm in Washington, said, speaking of the resumption of strategic bomber patrols. *NYT*

A RUSSIAN Tupolev Tu-95 plane photographed by the Norwegian Air Force in international waters outside the coast of Norway on Aug. 17. REUTERS

US agency swamped by requests for visas

IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES have received about 300,000 applications for high-skilled-employment visas since July 1, federal officials said on Friday, a deluge unleashed after the federal government first said it would not accept any applications for those visas during July and then reversed course.

Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal agency, was still receiving applications for employment visas on Friday, the last day of a special period it announced on July 17 for immigrants with professional skills to file petitions for permanent residence visas, known as green cards.

The agency admitted it was swamped by the applications it had already received, which was more than double the annual limit of 140,000 employment visas.

In the three months before July the agency received an average of 54,700 applications a month for all green cards, including employment visas and those based on family ties. Applications were already surging then as foreigners sought to file papers before higher processing fees took effect on July 30.

Presenting their applications did not guarantee that immigrants would receive their green cards quickly, since the annual limit remains the same. All the applications did was ensure the immigrants places on the list for green cards.

The visa roller-coaster ride began on June 12, when the State Department announced that visas would be available in July for a variety of professional immigrants. The State Department offers visas, and Citizen and Immigration Services processes applications for them.

Immigrants eligible for employment visas include doctors, nurses and people with advanced degrees and technology skills. Before they can apply, they must obtain certification from the federal government that no American workers are available for their jobs.

After thousands of foreigners hurried to prepare applications, the State Department said on July 2 that no visas would be available after all because the immigration agency had accelerated its processing and claimed them. *NYT*

ENGAGED

This May 2006 photo released by the White House shows President and Mrs. George W. Bush's daughter Jenna Bush with Henry Hager (left). The White House announced on Aug. 16 the engagement of their daughter Jenna to Hager, son of John and Maggie Hager of Richmond, Va. AP

Turkish plane hijacked en route to Istanbul

ANKARA—TWO MEN WHO SAID they were al-Qaida members attempted to hijack a Turkish passenger plane to Iran or Syria, forcing the aircraft to land in the southern Turkish city of Antalya, passengers and officials said.

Most of the passengers managed to escape after the plane landed, leaving only the hijackers and a few passengers and crew on board, officials said.

The plane, operated by the private Turkish airline company Atlas Jet, was en route from northern Cyprus to Istanbul, company manager Tuncay Doganer said.

The hijackers wanted to take the plane to Iran, but the pilot said they needed to refuel and the plane made an emergency landing in the Mediterranean resort of Antalya, he said.

There were 136 passengers and six crew aboard, he said.

When the plane landed, passengers broke down the back door of the airplane and most of them managed to get out, one of the passengers who fled, Erhan Erkul, told NTV television.

"They (the hijackers) said they were from al-Qaida. They tried to break the cabin door," he said.

"After we landed, we managed to break down the back door and jumped out. The hijackers could not intervene, they were in the front of the plane."

Another passenger who managed to escape said the two men said they had a bomb and wanted to go to Syria.

"They spoke in Arabic, sometimes they spoke in English. One of them spoke a little Turkish," said the woman, who was not identified.

She explained that the hijackers had agreed to free children and women but while they let them go out the front door, male passengers managed to force open the back door and flee.

Nine passengers and two crew members were still inside the plane, officials told Anatolia news agency. *AFP*

Vietnam warns women vs overseas marriages

HANOI—VIETNAM'S WOMEN'S union plans to set up 40 information centers to teach prospective brides about the risks of overseas marriages arranged via illegal matchmakers, state media said Saturday.

Concern over the practice of Vietnamese women, most from poor backgrounds, wedding wealthy foreigners through illegal brokers heightened after the death of one bride in the home of her South Korean husband.

She was found with 18 broken ribs earlier this month. Police arrested her husband.

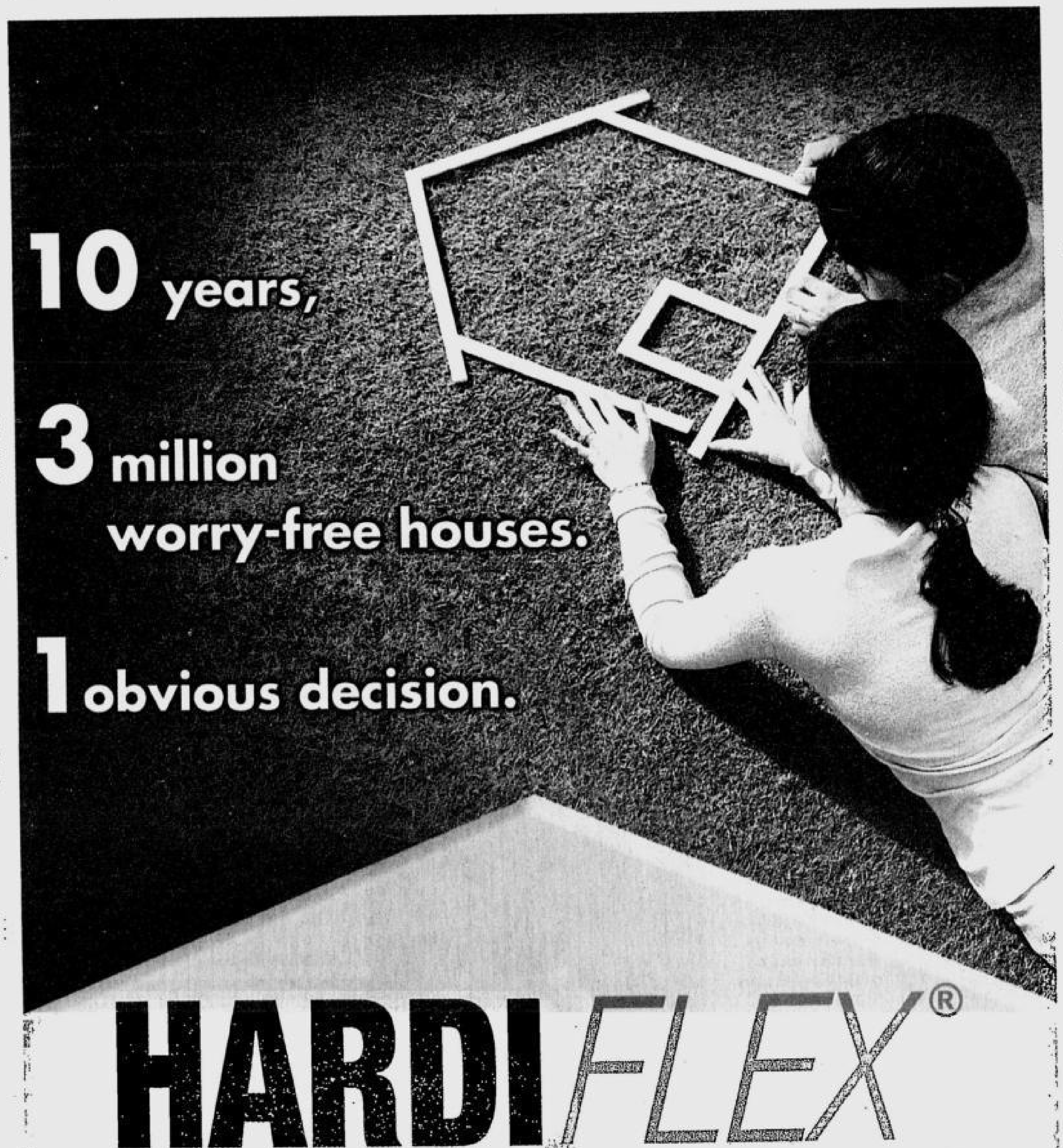
Excerpts from a letter kept by the woman, a former rice farmer and factory worker, describing her sadness and loneliness in South Korea were published across the Vietnamese media.

The communist state's women's association plans to set up the information and legal advice centers countrywide.

Vietnam has become a popular destination for bachelors from South Korea and other Asian countries searching for wives, often on week-long arranged trips that include medical checkups, visa procedures and speedy honeymoons.

The commercial matchmaking operations have stirred anger amid reports of potential brides being paraded and humiliated before their suitors, and of isolation and abuse suffered by many women in their new home countries.

The number of Vietnamese brides in South Korea totaled over 10,000 last year, up 74 percent from the previous year, with most married to farmers and fishermen. *AFP*



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■ Federer turns back Almagro /A25

WELCOAT DILEMMA

Is it Eman or Devance?

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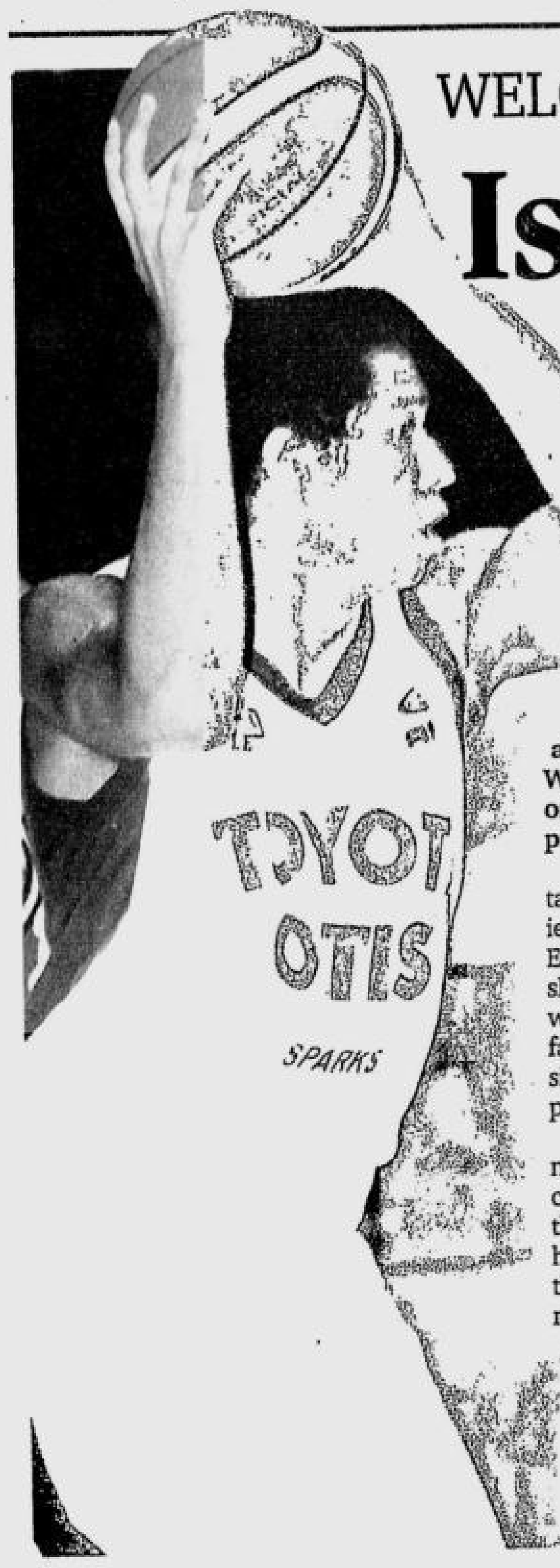

DEVANCE: Will he go No. 1?

By **Musong R. Castillo**

SOMEBODY'S LIFE IS about to change, and with it, Welcoat hopes, the fortunes of the Dragons in the Philippine Basketball Association.

The Dragons pick first from a talented pool in the annual Rookie Draft today, with Samigue Eman and Joe Devance tipped to slug it out for the distinction, which not only brings with it fame and fortune but the responsibility of transforming the whipping boys into contenders.

Eman and Devance are the names often mentioned by Welcoat coach Leo Austria the last three weeks, though he said that he will make up his mind only in the final minute because of "so many things happening."

Trades for quality big men have been put on the table by at least three teams Austria declined to name, and if that pushes through, then he might opt to snag either JC Intal or Ryan Reyes.

"It all depends on what will happen," Austria said. "We are still keeping our options open because of the (trade) offers that we have gotten. A lot can still happen until Sunday (today)."

The proceedings start at 4 p.m. at the Market! Market! in Taguig with newly-appointed Officer-In-Charge Renauld "Sonny" Barrios supervising.

San Miguel, because of a deal that involved Dale Singson with Coca-Cola two years ago, has the second choice. And interim coach Siot Tanquingcen is also looking at those four players and will pick

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Gymnasts power GenSan to Olympic festival lead

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—GENERAL Santos City harvested a sweep in gymnastics and produced two quintuple gold medalists, propelling the country's tuna capital atop the leaderboard in the Mindanao qualifying of the Philippine Olympic Festival.

Jennifer Ortiz and Mikaela Bochorno scooped five golds each in rhythmic gymnastics while Reinette Elorta and Emilio Pono added three apiece on the artistic side yesterday to power GenSan to an 18-gold romp in the event on the penultimate day of competitions.

GenSan's gold-medal sweep in gymnastics put this busy Southern Mindanao port city in the driver's seat with a total of 30 golds, 12 silvers and 10 bronzes to stay above second-running Zamboanga City (22-12-17) in the standings.

Ortiz, 13, came up with golden efforts in the rope, hoop, ribbon, club and all-around events in the 13 years-and-above category while the 11-year-old Bochorno proved invincible in the all-around, rope, ball, hoop, ribbon of the same event for 12 years and below.

Elorta and Pono seized the gold medals in the floor exercise, balance beam and individual all-around for the girls' secondary and boys' elementary divisions, respectively, in the tournament supported by Globe, Accel, Ama Computer College, Asia Brewery, Negros Navigation, Dragon Works and Creativity Lounge .

"We've been training hard for this since the early months of the year and the hard work simply paid off," said Renilda Elorta, GenSan's women's artistic gymnastic coach, whose team copped a bronze in the 2007 Palarong Pambansa in Koronadal City.

Brothers Aristotle and Roel Benian Jr. also pocketed a gold each in the floor exercise of the elementary and secondary divisions to complete GenSan's mastery of gymnastics.

Koronadal whipped up a storm in the pool after Tiara Tudio and Ralph Ian Aloot delivered a catch of five golds each to keep this year's Palarong Pambansa host in the thick of the fight for overall supremacy.

Tudio reigned supreme in the girls' 100-meter freestyle, 400m individual medley, 200m individual medley, 200m butterfly and 50m freestyle. Aloot dominated the boys' division with victories in the 100m freestyle, 400m IM, 50m freestyle, 200m IM and 1500m freestyle.

Aloot has three more events—100m breaststroke, 200m freestyle and 400m freestyle—giving the Grade 6 student from Notre Dame of Marbel University an opportunity to increase his medal collection further.

On the other hand, Tudio, who also snared a silver in the 4 x 50m relay, is hoping to clinch two more medals in the 100m and 200m breaststroke as Koronadal looks to improve its 18-gold medal haul on top of 19 silvers and 16 bronzes.

"It's a nice way to celebrate my birthday," said Tudio, who turned 13 yesterday.

Zamboanga struck in athletics with Joy delos Santos snaring the gold in the girls' 400m run, 10,000m run, 800m run and 400m hurdles on top of Radjeev Tahil's victories in the boys' 400m run, 400m hurdles and 4x400m relay.

Hosts Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental settled at fourth and fifth.

Time to spar for Pacman

Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

CEBU CITY—FILIPINO BOXING icon Manny Pacquiao is set to enter the most punishing part of his training starting next week when he starts the thrice-weekly sparring sessions supervised by Freddie Roach at the Rex "Wakee" Salud gym in Cebu.

The hard grind looms as three imported sparring partners are set to arrive in Cebu today from Los Angeles, with the mission of helping Pacquiao get into tiptop shape for his return bout with legendary Mexican warrior Marco Antonio Barrera on Oct. 6 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas.

"Yes, the sparmates are arriving tomorrow (today)," said Salud, Pacquiao's close ally, in an interview yesterday. "They will be here around 10 a.m."

Salud, in his effort to give Pacquiao uninterrupted training, will close his gym from Monday to Friday every week to avoid distractions.

Pacquiao is so focused on his training that he has asked Salud to cancel what would have been a trip to Japan yesterday to be at ringside for his ward, Jojo Bardon, who is defending his OPBF title today.

"I have decided to cancel my trip," said Salud, who is organizing a press conference on Monday for both Pacquiao and returning WBO bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa at the Marriott Hotel. "I am going to make sure both Manny and Freddie are well taken care of while they are here in Cebu."

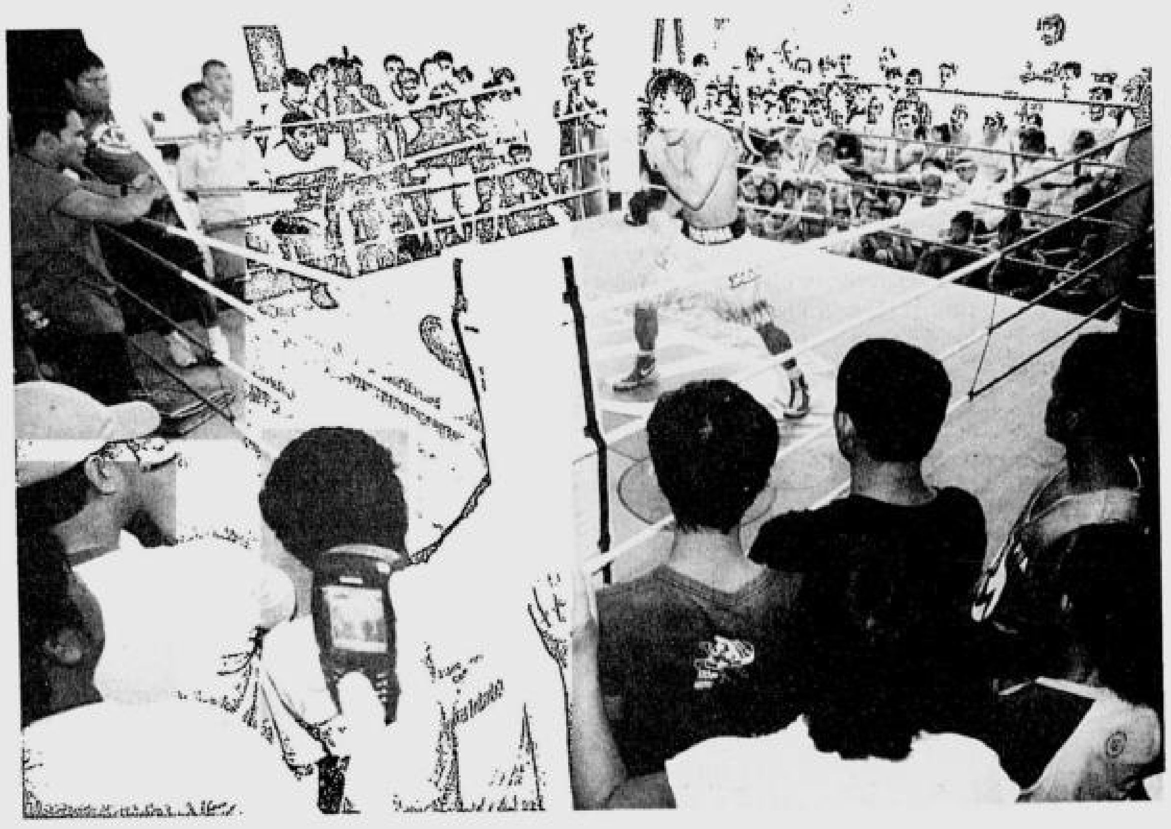
Pacquiao started his day by running ten rounds around the AsiaTown IT Park just across the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where they are billeted.

"Manny's conditioning is just about fine," said Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez. "He has a special nutritionist with him in Jojo Sta. Teresa."

The afternoon workout was supervised by Roach, with Pacquiao undergoing the usual four rounds of shadow-boxing before hitting the mitts for eight rounds.

These were followed by two rounds at the double-end bag, six minutes at the speedball, eight minutes on the skipping rope and the usual loosening exercises.

Today, there will be no off day for Pacquiao as he plans to run in the morning at the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club.



ONLY someone with the stature of a Manny Pacquiao can give a simple shadow-boxing session a fight-night feel by luring in a packed audience who want nothing but a glimpse of the Filipino ring icon at work.

TONEE DESPOJO/CEBU DAILY NEWS

Will 'miss-Fortune' haunt Manny?

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—THE GREAT AND tested Freddie Roach is in danger of being totally burned out in his race to prepare Manny Pacquiao for his monumental rematch against Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera.

Roach, indeed, has reworked the Pacquiao training program in order to make up for lost time, admitting they were late but readily assuring there was no need to cram.

Well and fine. Roach and Pacquiao need not work double time.

The problem is Roach has suddenly been left to perform two roles, a double job, in the run-up to the Oct. 6 rematch at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas.

Roach will do what he does best—train his prized warrior.

But, at the same time, he will have to oversee the physical conditioning of Pacquiao.

"No problem, I can do it," Roach assured the INQUIRER before departing for Manila and later linking up with Pacquiao in Cebu.

Roach may have had successfully assumed these twin roles with other fighters.

But, for the record, the similarly tested Justin Fortune, a one-time heavyweight fighter, had always been the main man behind Pacquiao's fine physical form in all previous big fights here.

Now, for the first time in his sensational rise from the Wild Card gym here, Pacquiao will not have Fortune by his side.

There will be no certified perfectionist to meticulously program and drive him to peak physical power.

Fortune's departure may not look serious but, whether they like it or not, there will be one major missing component in Pacquiao's preparations against his legendary foe that was tipped to put up his fiercest best against his former conqueror.

A check by the INQUIRER among gym hands and habitués said Fortune had a falling out with Roach over the ten per cent trainer's cut in Pacquiao's fight against Mexican Jorge Solis in San Antonio, Texas last April.

Roach had to work with Oscar de la Hoya in Puerto Rico for the fight against Floyd Mayweather, thereby leaving Fortune to handle the training for Pacquiao at Wild Card.

Roach was entitled to the ten-percent trainer's cut, as stipulated in the contract.

However, Fortune reportedly ended up with the fat cut from the $2 Million total purse.

Jeff de Guzman, a physical therapist who sometimes works for Team Pacquiao, said it was not a simple falling out.

"I will not be surprised if it reaches the courts," De Guzman said.

De Guzman, who claimed he was with Fortune in a Southwest Airlines flight to Sacramento last week, said he was told of the many problems Pacquiao could encounter in his bid to reach peak form against Barrera.

RP jins lack that killer instinct, says expert

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GOING BY THE WORDS OF A FOUR-time world champion, the Philippines definitely ranks among the world's taekwondo superpowers.

Prof. Jung Kuk Hyun of Korea said the country's present crop of taekwondo jins have "really good techniques," enough to match his compatriots and other world beaters like Iran and Jordan.

Inspiring words indeed for local jins who are being counted upon to deliver the Philippines' first Olympic gold medal in Beijing next year.

However, Jung pointed out that the Filipinos sorely lacked the "temper or killer instinct."

"I watch the RP fighters in many international games," Jung said. "Their technique is really good.

"But the strong spirit, the temper or killer instinct, has to be developed more."

He also put emphasis in physical fitness, flexibility and agility, factors that he claims could even neutralize the height disadvantage during a fight.

"I played volleyball when I was in elementary, but during middle school when I was 14, my teacher told me to transfer to taekwondo because when I stood in line I was short," recalled Jung, who stands 5-foot-7.

PICHAY

Pichay elected Fessap chair

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FEDERAtion of School Sports Association of the Philippines (FESSAP) unanimously elected former congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay as its chair during a meeting at the Max Restaurant in SM Manila Friday afternoon.

Pichay was endorsed by Dr. Shirley Lim, who is also the president of the Caraga Region Schools and Colleges Athletic Association. Butuan City Inter-Schools Association (BCISA) and Surigao City Inter-School Basketball League (SUCISBL) supported the nomination.

The board meeting was presided by FESSAP president Teresita Abundo of the National Capital Region Athletic Association. In attendance were Robert Milton Calo of PISCUAA as executive vice president and concurrent secretary general and vice presidents Roberto Tamayo (NCR), Francisco Viola (Luzon), Lorenzo Sy (Visayas), and Dr. Shirley Lim (Mindanao). Other officers are engineer Jedel Agron as treasurer, Dr. Diosdado Amante as auditor and lawyer Romeo Vicente as legal counsel.

Wild Orchid leads Philracom Challenge field

CARMONA, CAVITE—SIX TESTED chargers, including the charismatic Wild Orchid, square off today in the kickoff leg of the 2007 Philracom Imported/Local Challenge series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

Spread over a mile, the P800,000 race will most probably see the Hermie Esguerra-owned mare sent off as the prohibitive first choice owing to a string of impressive runs of late.

Ace Jonathan B. Hernandez pilots the five-year-old bay, who two years ago was the best import in the land before a serious foot injury sidelined her for a considerable amount of time.

Stayer La Tienne looms as the likely challenger, the Ed Dimacuha-owned six-year-old coming off a second place finish to stablemate Ever Mine Now, who was ridden by Hernandez, during the PSA Cup last week at the Santa Ana.

Patty Dilema steers La Tienne, an Australian import like Wild Orchid.

Irene's Fantasy also merits some attention, even if the three-year-old bay filly failed to score a followup to an impressive run a couple of weeks back. Antonio Alcasid handles Irene's Fantasy.

First place in the race, set at around 5:25 p.m., would be worth P480,000 out of the total pot put up by the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission.

Couplers Regal Boom and Ziraz, to be handled by John Paul Guce and RK Hipolito, respectively, and the Manolito Daquis-guided Native Land, the only local in the group, round out the field.

Second place would be worth P180,000, while third would still be good for P100,000. *Musong R. Castillo*

A touching reunion

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FOR PUREfoods cager Marc Pingris, his recent trip to Europe was one of the happiest, most memorable highlights of his life.

It was the first time he met his father, Jean Marc Pingris Sr., a Frenchman who was introduced to his mother more than 25 years ago while he was working on a project here in Manila.

As most people know, Marc has never kept secret his desire to meet his father, even when he was just a budding star with the national youth squad.

"My mother (Erlinda) was supposed to follow him to Morocco after he left Manila but they completely lost track of each other. Only recently did they both find out that a jealous friend of my mother had kept my father's letters from her," Marc related.

Through the years, Marc's mom tried to trace the whereabouts of Marc Sr., but to no avail.

Only through the persistence and perseverance of Danica Sotto, now Mrs. Pingris, did they finally locate the older Jean Marc.

"I'm very lucky to have Danica in my life. She loves me so much she did everything to find my father—scouring the website, calling so many people in the embassy. She knew it would make me happy to be reunited with him.

* * *

The long-awaited reunion happened last month. It was a touching scene at the Charles De Gaulle airport in Paris, France, where Jean Marc Sr. and his new wife met Marc Jr. and Danica at the arrival area.

"We were so happy to see each other we found ourselves hugging and crying. It was a most touching moment," said Marc Jr.

Marc said his 62-year-old father looks exactly like him. His father spoke very little English but they managed to communicate since Marc and Danica took lessons in basic French at the Alliance Francais before they left for Paris.

"I have only one brother—my father's son by his first wife—and he was supposed to join us, except that he had to leave the country. He's 37 years old. My father and his present wife don't have any children."

* * *

From the airport the Pingrises motored for 6 hours to Normandy, where the older couple resides.

"My father has a big house with an underground tunnel where his wine collection is stored and aged. Some of these have been there for 10 years," Marc said.

He and Danica were given a taste of authentic French cuisine, compliments of Marc's stepmother, who is a good cook.

"In addition, we were educated on the many different kinds of cheese."

"My father spent the next two weeks showing us around. We drove to as far as Geneva, Switzerland, where we visited Danica's relatives on her mother's side. It was so nice."

* * *

Finally, it was time to move on.

"My father booked us in a hotel within the vicinity of the airport so we wouldn't have problems with transportation. Danica and I made a side trip to Venice where we had a second honeymoon."

But Jean Marc just couldn't have enough of his son.

"They drove all the way from Normandy just so we could spend another day together. It was a very pleasant surprise," Marc related.

"It was really not a sad goodbye because my father promised to visit us in Manila in March. He said he wants to see me play."

Federer turns back Almagro

CINCINNATI—TOP SEED Roger Federer struggled to a 6-3 3-6 6-2 victory over Spaniard Nicolas Almagro on Friday to reach the semifinals of the Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one was unusually erratic as he dropped his first set of the week before recovering his poise to set up a clash with Lleyton Hewitt.

"I actually think I played better today than I did yesterday," Federer told reporters.

"The only problem was I had one really bad game which cost me the second set.

Federer, looking for his 50th career title, broke in the sixth game but immediately dropped his serve before breaking for a second time to take the opening set.

Almagro, appearing in his sixth quarter-final of the year, broke serve in the eighth game of the second set to level the match before an early break in the decider was enough to take Federer through.

Hewitt, twice a runner-up here, produced a commanding performance to beat fellow former world number one Carlos Moya 6-2 6-4 and reach his fourth semi-final of the season.

World number 19 Moya had defeated fourth seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia earlier this week but the Spaniard made too many unforced errors against Hewitt.

Federer has won his previous 10 meetings with Hewitt, including a straight-sets victory last week in Montreal.

The second semi-final will be between fifth seed Nikolay Davydenko of Russia and American ninth seed James Blake.

Davydenko withstood a late fightback from 16th seed David Ferrer to beat the Spaniard 6-2 6-4.

The Russian led 4-0 in the second set before Ferrer cut the deficit to 4-3 but Davydenko held on for victory.

Blake battled hard to beat his compatriot Sam Querrey 5-7 6-4 6-4 to reach only his second Masters Series semifinal. *Reuters*

ROGER Federer serves to Nicolas Almagro of Spain during their quarterfinal match in the 2007 Cincinnati Masters tennis tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio on Friday. REUTERS

Canossa, Claret win

DUANE CRAIG TEVES AND Mark Lemuel Villapando combined for 22 points to lead Canossa past Batasan Hills, 25-13, 25-14, yesterday in the Petron Treats Boys V-League at the San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Quezon City.

Both players accounted for five kills each to give their team a head start in the tournament presented by Petron and supported by Shakey's, Toby's Sports, Mikasa and Asics.

With Canossa clinging to a shaky 15-12 lead, Teves and Villapando delivered four straight points including a pair of blocks to pad the lead to 19-12.

Claret also won its opener, edging host school San Lorenzo Ruiz in a three-set thriller, 25-19, 26-28, 25-20.

Skipper and setter Jeremiah Macaraeg scored 14 points while John Carlo Tria added 10 points highlighted by six kills for Claret.

University of the East joined the early winners with a 25-15, 25-22 thrashing of De La Salle-Lipa.

There are 25 teams competing in the competition organized by Freddie Infante. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Corteza, Alcano trip foes

LEE VANN CORTEZA, RONATO ALCANO and Dennis Orcollo dispatched separate opponents to advance to the next round of the IX Turning Stone Classic 9-Ball Tournament yesterday at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, New York.

Alcano subdued Tony Ruberto, 9-5, and Ignacio Chavez, 9-6, while Orcollo bested Ron Casanzio, 9-1, and Al Lapena, 9-2.

Corteza outlasted Mike Dechaine, 9-6, to add to his earlier victories over Redgie Cutler, 9-6, and Holden Chin, 9-1. He faces Tony Chohan next.

Jose "Amang" Parica was relegated to the losers' bracket after yielding, 9-5, to Dick Cappotto who will be Alcano's next foe.

Parica aims for a comeback in the double-elimination format event against Ivaylo Petrov.

Another losers' bracket match saw Mhet Vergarra crushing Bill Dunsmore, 9-5, to arrange a meeting with Mika Immonen of Finland.

The $25,000-event which offers $12,000 (about P230,000) to the champion attracted 128 players.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

BOWLFEST: Officials of the People Management Association of the Philippines do the ceremonial ball throw to kick off this year's tournament at the SM Megamall. From left are Tess Enriquez of Cathay Drug, Jay Romero of Amkor Technology Phils., Danilo Pancho of Edward Keller and Ma. Lourdes L. Fernando of Shindengen Phils.

David rules Poker Pool

RENEMAR DAVID, THE 2006 Sydney World Junior quarterfinalist, ruled the first leg Poker Pool event dubbed as Sargo's Golden Classics which was aired last night at RPN Pare.

The 17-year-old David bested reigning double world titlist Ronato Alcano, 2006 Doha Asian Games 9-ball silver medalist Jeffrey De Luna and 2007 Fujairah World 8-ball semifinalist Joven Bustamante.

According to tournament director Jojo Santos, the event will be aired every Saturday from 7 to 9 pm at RPN Pare in cooperation with Solar Entertainment Corp., Bugsy Promotion, Negros Billiard Stable and Edwin Reyes Stable.

Other invited players are: (Aug. 25): Antonio Gabica, Carlo Biado, Jundel Mazon and Russian Petiza. (Sept. 1): Gandy Valle, Roberto Gomez, James Al Ortega and Roland Garcia. (Sept. 8): Jharome Pena, Mike Takayama, Rodrigo Geronimo and Benjie Guevarra.

RENEMAR DAVID

MBT corporate league starts Sept. 1

THE 2007 MBT BASKETBALL LEAGUE SERIES THIRD CONFERENCE, FEAturing teams grouped into different divisions based on their competitive levels, is set to start Sept 1 at the Metro, Reyes and RTU gyms all in Mandaluyong City. Division A is mostly for commercial and collegiate teams since this is open to all players. The most popular divisions are C and D. The league, backed by Apo Floors, Mighty Filter Kings, Basil 2000, Sportswear, Team Sparrow and Molten, is organized by the Metro Basketball Tournaments Inc., a non-profit, non-stock sports association headed by Nilo Fernandez. For inquiries, call 6367638 or text 09179948408 or visit www.metrobasketball.net.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—Royal Family (1), Royal Warrior (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Hundred Reason (1), Macho Man (3), Bundok Peninsula (8), Angie Red (7)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Northstorm (2), Copper Head (3), Calvin's Fury (1), Hudson Hawk (5)
Race 4—Shutter/Bullet Day (1), Giry (4), Splendor (5)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bull Rock (5), Landed Visa (1), Danehill Dave (4), King's Treasure (6), Jigsaw Star (2)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Selectee (1), Beat D'Heat (4), Hurry Princess (7), Western Dancer (5), Alam Mo Na Yan (2)
Race 7—(Tri)—La Tienne (4), Wild Orchid (5), Native Land (3)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Summit Force (3), Bigtime Bonjing (2), Heart Of The Wind (6), Celestial (7), Sea Of Galilee (9), Music Quest (1)
Race 9—(Tri)—Magical Street (5), Flame Of The Wind (4), Body Shot (3)
Race 10—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Now Showing (5), Real Tough (1), Dixie Dash (2), Violeta's Secret/Just A Moment (8), Good Humour (7), House Of Riches (6)
Race 11—Royal Heiress (1), Siglakas (3), Be Faithful (4), Instant (5)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Loving Thunder/Lord Gold (9), Winner Take All (7), Princess Sophia (8), Long Hitter (2), Dona Marucha (4)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Victory (10), EJ Forever (11), Minak City (8), Passing Through (9), Ilocos Pride (5), Sharp Thunder (2)

BADMINTON COURT: Quezon City Mayor Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr. (left) and Majority Floor Leader councilor Ariel Inton Jr. lead the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon for the inauguration of the badminton court at the Amoranto Sports Complex.

Forest Hills, Alabang up

FOREST HILLS AND ALABANG CLINCHED the two automatic semifinal berths after Royal Northwoods yielded to also-ran Orchard, 4-1, on Thursday in the Federation Golf League.

The combinations of Paul Salvador-Joe Gonzales, Raymund Sangil-Nonoy Chuatico, Ian Arcilla-JP Castrillo and Louie Garcia-Andy Vasquez scored for Orchard which ended its campaign with a rousing spoiler—its third in four games—after a dismal 0-5 start.

Northwoods lost out to Forest Hills and Alabang in the chase for the top two slots in a countback determined by winning percentage and could have clinched one of the seats with just a draw against Orchard.

Instead, Northwoods, which took a disappointing loss at home, will have to go through the quarterfinals with the fourth, fifth and sixth-ranked teams after the eliminations.

Forest Hills finished on top of the standings with a winning percentage of .93 on 15 of 16 matches, Alabang wound up with .875 on 14 of 16 and Northwoods at .85 on 17 of 20.

Mt. Malarayat was battling defending champion Manila Southwoods Friday until heavy rains halted play with Southwoods leading in three of the five matches.

Fernando tops Pilipinas tour

MARK FERNANDO COULD ONLY TALLY A five-over-par 77 on Friday, but it proved enough to give him the Championship division title of the third leg of the Pilipinas Amateur Tour presented by Samsung at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The 26-year-old Fernando, a product of the National Caddies Open, posted a 54-hole total of 232 to turn back the challenge of reigning Philippine caddies titlist Jessie Balasabas, who closed out with an 82 for 234.

Fernando submitted earlier rounds of 77 and 78 at the difficult Dye course to become the tour's second winner in the division confined to single-digit handicappers.

Rufino Bayron topped the first two legs held at Pueblo de Oro and Riviera, respectively, but was unable to find his touch and rhythm this time. Struggling throughout with an 80 and back-to-back 81s, Bayron landed fifth at 242.

South Korean Seonge Park survived a four-man playoff to clinch the men's Class A title via sudden-death at the expense of compatriot Ho Lee-seoh.

The Class B plum went to another Korean, Suk Bum-kang, who nipped countryman Hwan Jang. Suk shot a 79 and 82 for 161.

Medical mission caps RGFFP tilt

IT'S NOT ALL PLAY WHEN THE ROTARY Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) goes to Iloilo City for its regular tournament on Aug. 23-25.

The Rotarians will also undertake a medical and dental mission that would benefit around 200 indigents in the city.

Participants have another chance to win P1 million worth of hole-in-one prizes and a single cylinder, 4-stroke scooter from Emcor Inc. as the major raffle prize.

Among the early entries are the teams of Rotary Club of San Juanico, RC of Pasig, RC of Tacloban and RC of Bulacan.

For inquiries, call Pauline Sevilla at 0920-9199000 and 7248174 or fax 7215940.

Aguilar, Buxton split wins in Grand Touring

OSACAR AGUILAR OF CALTEX Techron-Blanche Racing posted a big upset by topping the third leg of the 2007 Petron-San Mig Coffee Philippine Grand Touring (GT) Championship Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

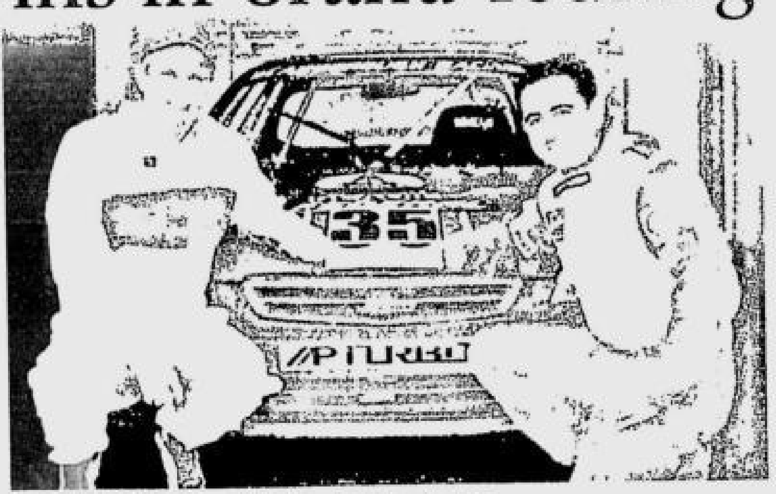
Aguilar, father of motocross champ Glenn Aguilar, was even stunned upon learning he won the morning 11-lap Sprint Race.

All he wanted was just to have fun and finish the race. In fact, the gas tank of his Blanche Racing-prepared Honda Civic was just one-fourth full, just enough to reach the finish line.

He started a far third behind then leading Cebu-based MP Turbo driver Jonathan Buxton and Alps Racing's Felix Perez. But Buxton suffered computer box problems that forced him to take the pit while Perez followed suit after experiencing engine problems.

Aguilar wrapped up the race in 23:17.527 to claim the GT 200 crown over Perez.

Eric Tanael bagged the GT 300 class aboard his BMW3 series, and Danes Sarmiento topped the GT 125 division.

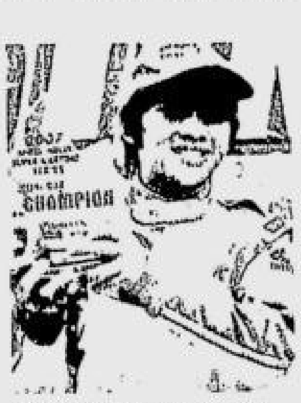


JONATHAN Buxton (left) and Carlos Anton

Young ace Orduna earns slot to World ROK

KEEPING HIS LEAD MIDway through the season, young ace karter Joey Orduna earned the right to represent the country in the Mini-ROK division of the 2007 World ROK Karting Championship in Lonato, Italy, in October.

It will be the second straight year that the 11-year-old Orduna, a Grade 6 student of Maria Montessori School, will be carrying the country's colors in the event where he will be backed y Petron, Standard Insurance, Ford Racing, Oakley, Acer, Tuason Racing, AmbiPur, Goodyear, TonyKart, HJC Auto Helmets, AIM Racing Gauges, R2R Racing Suits and Alpinestars Racing Apparel.



ORDUNA: Italy-bound

With his back-to-back wins in the Asian Karting Open Championship leg here and in the Enchanted Kingdom leg of the Shell Helix Karting Super Series, Orduna hopes he can carry a good fight in Italy where he's eyeing at least a podium finish.

Prior to Italy, Orduna will be competing in the third leg of the Asian Karting Open Championship slated Aug. 24-26 in Indonesia.

Orduna qualified for Italy following his superiority in the Mini-ROK division of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series.

He has won four of the past five legs to keep himself on track for the overall Mini-ROK crown, leading Cebuano Tonyo Carcel by 100 points.

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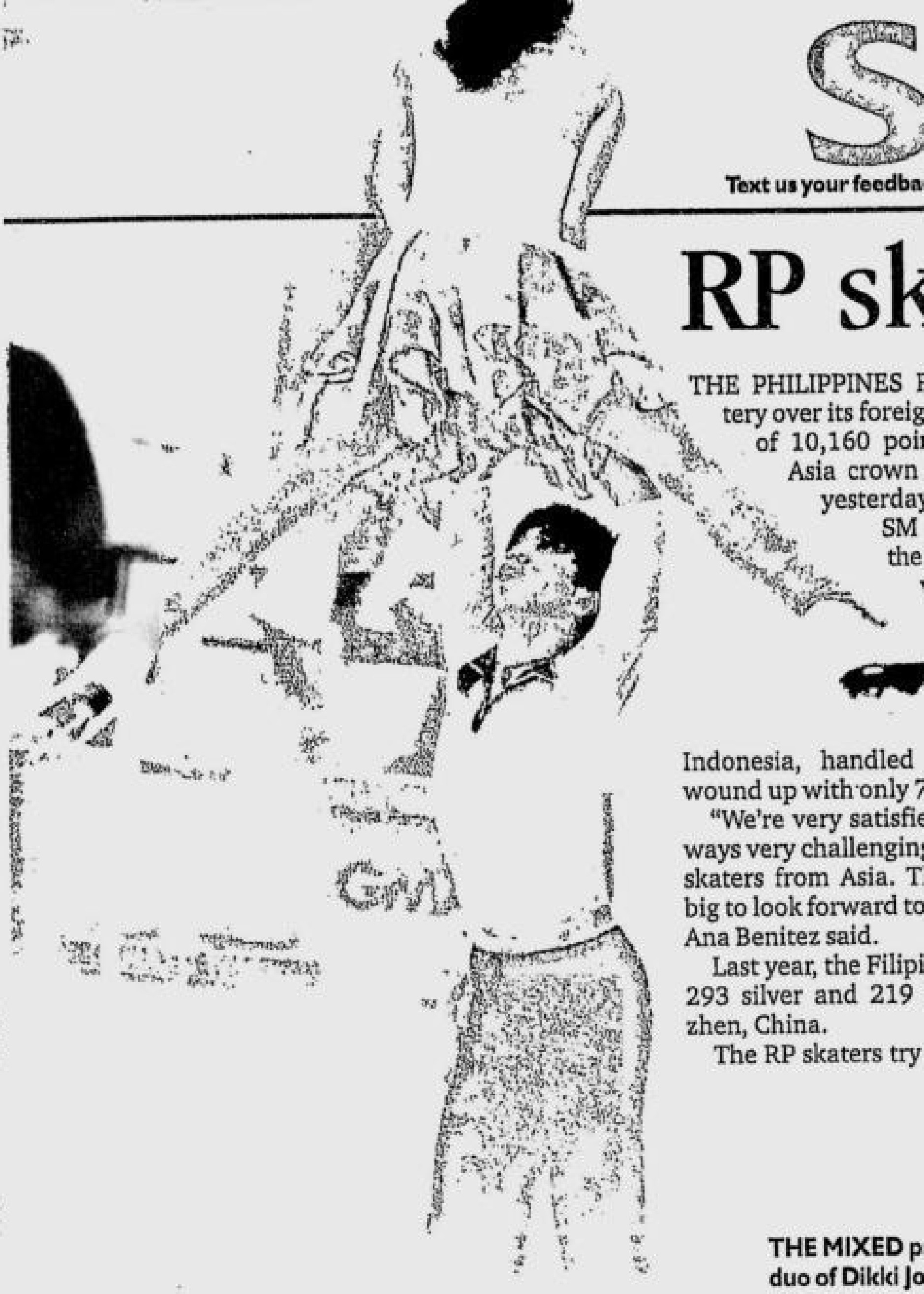
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

RP skaters dominate ice rink anew



THE MIXED pairs duo of Dikki John Martinez and Ann Clarisse Roman flash their winning form on the way to the gold medal at the SM Mall of Asia ice rink.

ROGER MARGALLO

THE PHILIPPINES REASSERTED ITS MASTERY over its foreign rivals, amassing a total of 10,160 points, to retain the Skate Asia crown at the SM Mall of Asia yesterday.

SM Megamall spearheaded the Philippines' successful bid with 7001.5 points, SM Southmall tallied 2617 and SM International had 541.5.

Runner-up Skyrink-Jakarta of Indonesia, handled by a Filipino mentor, wound up with only 761 points.

"We're very satisfied with the result. It's always very challenging to compete with the top skaters from Asia. There's always something big to look forward to," Megamall senior coach Ana Benitez said.

Last year, the Filipino skaters won 521 gold, 293 silver and 219 bronze medals in Shenzhen, China.

The RP skaters try to make it three in a row next year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

SM Southmall's Michael Barbosa and Shaira Myron alarda also copped a world record by winning in 33 and 28 categories, respectively.

The nine-year old Barbosa came up with 12 gold, 11 silver and five bronze medals while Salarda plucked 12 gold, 9 silver and three bronze medals.

Festival Walk Glacier of Hong Kong placed third with 727 points, Cityplaza Ice Palace of Singapore settled for 349.5 points and 2005 winner World Ice Arena of China had a dismal 225 points.

Organizers were still tabulating the overall medal tally as of press time.

"Actually, based on the medal tally, our foreign rivals have improved remarkably," Benitez said. "They prepared hard for this because they are already starting to feel the challenge. I know they will be a serious threat in the years to come."

Also winning for SM Megamall were Winners' Circle, Thriller Academy, Billie Jean Elite Teens, Dale's Angels, Filipino Adult Team Comp 4, Rainbow Connection, Dale's Broadway Stars and Rhythm and Edge, all with perfect 25.0 in the team performance category.

Other winners: Maria Criselda Martinez and Marileen Ayson topped the 22-31 female Couples 1; Bianca Yasmin Cuevas and Keith Stephanie Angeles ruled the 7-11 mixed Couples 2; Jewel De Guzman and Jan Tanchico bested the field in the 13-21 mixed Pairs 2; Ysabelle Vitangcol and Bien Bergonia copped the 11-14 mixed Pairs 2 gold; Karen Tan and Evamei Rusia prevailed in the 22-32 female Couples 4; Gimelle Ballesteros and Eri Reyes reigned in the 11-12 female Couples 3; Katrice Delos Reyes and Francesca Dominique Recasata dominated the 10-14 female Couples 6; Akemi Kambe, Francesca Jereza and Angelica Elmido clinched the 14-16 mixed Couples 4 gold, Danielle Baron and Angelica Transporte took the 11-16 female Couples 7 plum; Michelle Pacual and Henry Dumaliang topped the 28-37 mixed Pairs 1; Mariol Benilayo and Marvin Espino shone in the 12-17 female Couples 8

Warriors stake win run vs UST Tigers

DLSU Archers take on FEU Tamaraws

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	8	0
UST	5	3
La Salle	5	3
FEU	5	3
Ateneo	4	4
NU	4	4
Adamson	1	7
UP	0	8

Games Today
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
2 p.m.—UE vs Santo Tomas
4 p.m.—Far Eastern vs La Salle

A LOT HAS CHANGED since University of the East and defending champion University of Santo Tomas last tangled in the 70th UAAP Men's basketball championship.

The Red Warriors have since developed that seeming myth of invincibility since crushing Santo Tomas last July 8, that victory touching off a string of eight straight triumphs—most of them in very lopsided ways.

After flaunting sorry form in that debacle, the Tigers have worked double time to win a few games here and there and have developed an aura of their own as the team with a realistic chance of snapping that UE run.

"We're just gathering steam," Santo Tomas coach Pido Jarencio had said in jest after nipping La Salle in a classic overtime thriller last week. "We're at the point where we feel that we can beat anyone."

The Tigers will be taking a two-game winning streak on the line in their 2 p.m. collision at the Cuneta Astrodome today even as the Green Archers try to bounce back from that sorry loss against the Far Eastern Tamaraws in the 4 p.m. setto.

UE closed out the first round by beating foes black-and-blue, but found some measure of competition when the Warriors opened up the second against the Tamaraws.

And it was a victory that gave coach Dindo Pumaren even more confidence for the tough grinds that lay ahead, since it tested his Warriors' character in a way it has never been tested in the tournament.

"This was a good win considering that we came off a layoff," Pumaren said. "And it showed the character of the boys, who had to come back from a deficit."

UE team has ever made a run this solid since Allan Caidic and Jerry Codinera bannered the squad in 1985, the last time the Warriors won a title.

But UE should remember that last year, UST halted the eight-game winning run of Ateneo, which the Tigers eventually buried in the finals.

Musong Castillo

Is it Eman or Devance?

From page A23

the best from whoever is left.

"I don't think we will veer away from those four," Tanquingcen said.

Sta. Lucia picks third and coach Boyet Fernandez had hinted that his team might be the first to pull out the surprise of the proceedings, though snagging Reyes would not come as a shock to anyone at this point after Welcoat and San Miguel had shown interest in the 5-foot-10 guard.

Reyes seems to be the logical choice for the Realtors at this point after they had dealt Alex Cabagnot to the Tigers.

RP-Illam rips Canadian squad, nears junior world series glory

ILLAM players huddle before the start of the game

ONE VICTORY.

That's what separates the Philippines' Illam Central LL from completing its date with destiny in the 2007 Junior League Baseball (13-14) World Series in Taylor, Michigan.

The Illam batters, neophytes but playing like battle-tested veterans, pushed Canada out of the way with a commanding 8-1 victory to bag the international crown yesterday.

The Filipinos can become the country's second World Series champion if they overcome US titlist Pearl City, Hawaii, in the title duel at 5 p.m. Saturday (5 a.m. Sunday in the Philippines).

Relief pitcher Yusuke Koruda, coming on in for the sputtering Adriane Benardo, pulled off a one-hitter in the stirring repeat triumph over the Canadians in the international pool finals.

Pearl City won the USA championship over Laredo, Texas, 4-1.

Benardo yielded one run right at the top of the first inning, before Koruda stepped in to dry up the Canaidan hitters, striking out five batters and walking two in six and 2/3 innings.

Shortstop Mark Ong, the son of manager Catherine Tanco-Ong, also produced a sterling performance, going 2-for-3 and scoring twice, while outfielders Andrew Tan and Seba Martinez-Miran knocked in two runs each.

The Filipinos hardly merited attention going into the event since the Asia-Pacific region it bannered has not won more than one match since it started competing in 1999.

Five straight victories changed all that for the Illam batters of Tanco-Ong, who is only the second female manager in this tournament.

And now, the Filipinos, who brought home the Asia-Pacific crown from Hagatna, Guam with little fanfare in June, is on the threshold of emulating the achievement of Paglaum Village National High School, the 2003 Junior League Softball World Series champion.

"The kids have been playing relaxed and enjoying the games," Ong told the World Series website.

"They're not tense. I expected nerves. They're not nervous. They're still pumped and excited and proud to be here and to represent their country and region."

Ong is hoping to match the feat of Juanita Laboy, who led Yabucoa-Puerto Rico to the world title in 1990.

Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas

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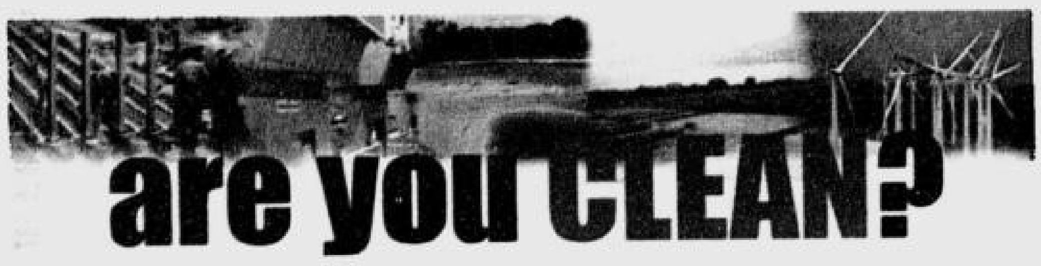

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Sunday BIZ

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DOPPLER TEST

Dream product, service for fame and fortune

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

EVERY TOWN HAS a treasure just waiting to be discovered.

This is the philosophy behind the Department of Trade and Industry's One Town One Product (OTOP) program that kicked off in November 2004.

Under the program, local government units are tasked to identify, develop and promote specific products or service that they can sell to the local and international markets.

It is hoped that by developing micro, small and medium-scale enterprises, more jobs will be created in the community.

Budding entrepreneurs are supported in their endeavor through government and private sector-sponsored business counseling, skills and entrepreneurial training, product design and development and marketing.

Best products

Some 184 local government units and companies from Luzon that benefited from the OTOP program got the chance to put their best products forward during the OTOP Luzon Island Fair at the Megatrade hall of SM Megamall, which will conclude today.

Some of the featured products include the traditional roasted coffee from Calabarzon, gifts and holiday décor from Pampanga, pili products from Bicol, wooden furniture from Isabela and processed meat products from Quezon.

New products include arrow root delicacies from Marinduque, citrus fruits and rootcrops from Nueva Vizcaya, handmade paper products from Batangas, ceramics from Albay and footwear from Nueva Ecija.

Inspired

The OTOP program was inspired by Japan's 20-year-old One Village, One Product program, which was instrumental in developing over 300 new products from the countryside.

The DTI hopes to duplicate, if not surpass, the success of Japan's OVOP program and it believes that it is on the way to doing just that.

NUEVA Vizcaya is proud of its native oranges

COLORFUL brooms from Burgos, La Union

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan shows off its jewelry PHOTOS BY JEROME C. DUMLAO

FOOTWEAR from Nueva Ecija

Arrowroot Cookies

MARINDUQUE sells Uraro delicacies

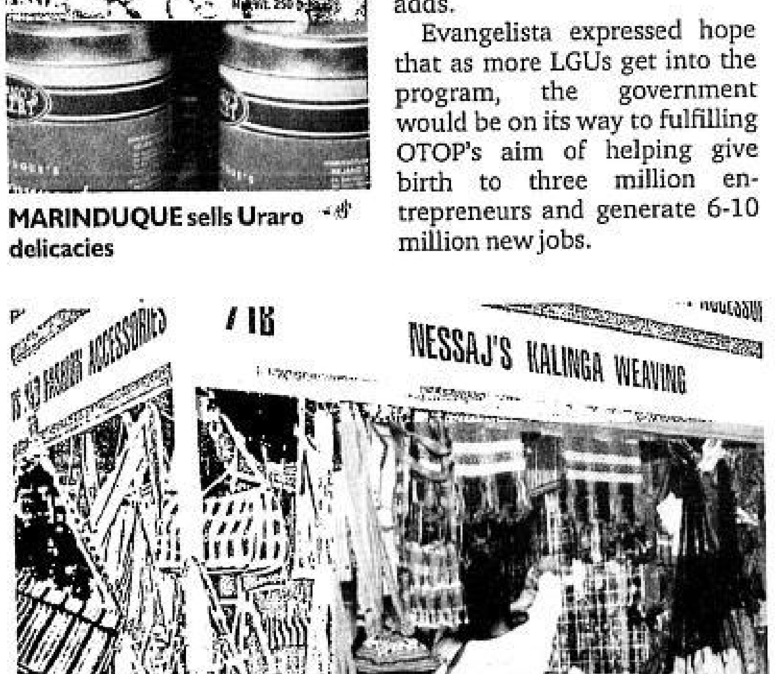
Carissa Cruz-Evangelista, trade undersecretary for regional operations, reported that since 2004, OTOP has been able to develop 3,589 SMEs and has generated P3.27 billion in investments, $178 million in export sales, P3.1 billion in domestic sales and more importantly, employed 142,277.

'Buy Filipino'

"We have been very positive because of the reception that the program got from the mayors, governors, congressmen, public line agencies and the private sector," Evangelista says, adding "they see it is as a Buy Filipino program that has helped developed skills and products indigenous to the area."

"I also believe that because of the movement, we have become more nationalistic," she adds.

Evangelista expressed hope that as more LGUs get into the program, the government would be on its way to fulfilling OTOP's aim of helping give birth to three million entrepreneurs and generate 6-10 million new jobs.



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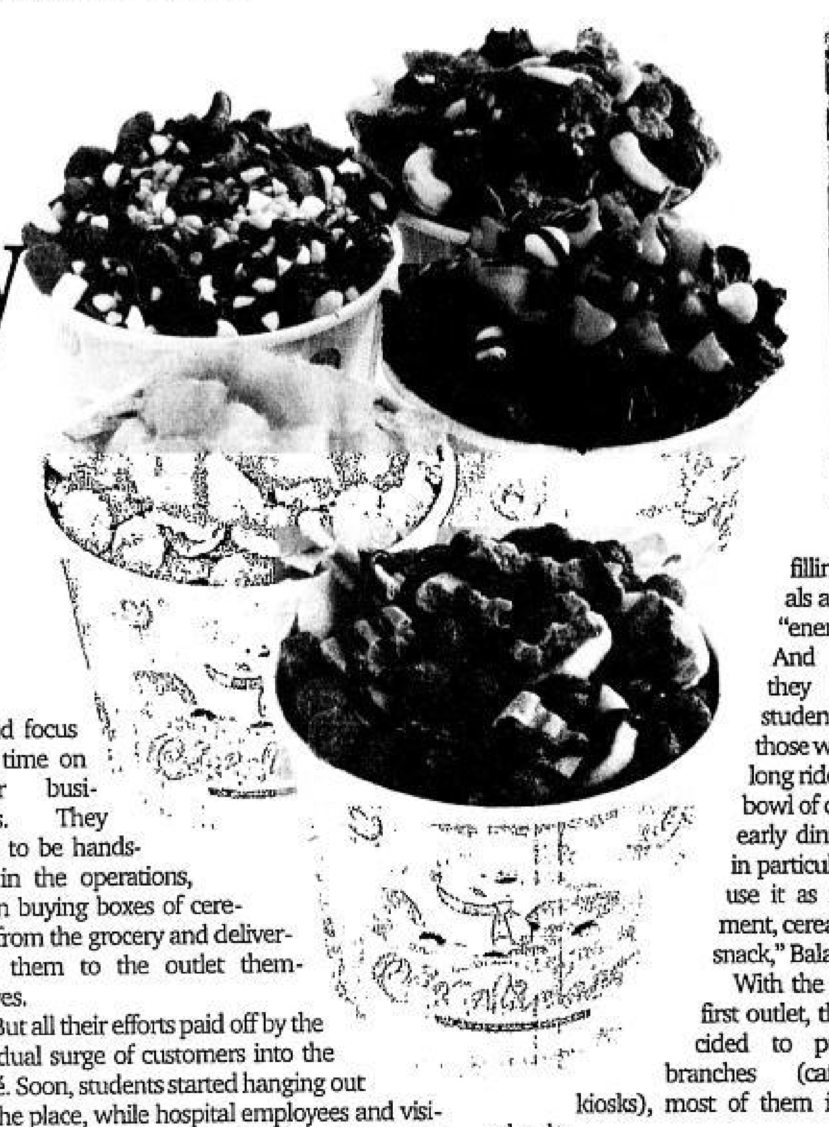
Choice cereals any time, any day

By Princess Daisy C. Ominga



WHOEVER STILL BELIEVES THAT CEREALS are eaten only for breakfast will surely be converted by this charming little cereal café.

Cerealicious, which serves bowls of different kinds of cereal with the most colorful and delectable toppings you could imagine, wants to make the otherwise known breakfast food available for everyone to enjoy, any time of the day.

The café is owned and operated by six twenty-something friends—some batch mates in college, some friends from work—who decided to open a business that would not only fulfill their dream of having a business of their own and practice their entrepreneurial skills, but also to share to others their love for cereals.

"It is where people will be able to eat cereals outside of home, and have as many choices as possible in terms of cereals, toppings and milk," says Crissy Balatbat, one of Cerealicious' owners and the group's business development and PR manager.

It was in 2005 when four of the six friends—Balatbat, Charlene Falcis, Natasha Tabucal and Andrew Varona—noticed the growing market of cereal cafés in the United States. They realized there is an untapped market in the Philippines on this, where people usually eat cereal only in their homes, and with only one or two varieties for the entire family.

When they did a study of their potential market, they found out that people are willing to eat cereal as long as it is available, and preferably, with different sorts of toppings.

Ideal customers

The group also knew that students would be their ideal customers since they are really adventurous in their choice of food. Encouraged by their study, a strong conviction of pushing through with their plan, and with a capital of P800,000 (mostly from their life savings), the first Cerealicious outlet in the Philippines opened in January 2006 at the University of Santo Tomas compound, across the hospital. By mid-2006, their friends Lester Fuentes and Katrina Ronas came aboard and joined the company.

Balatbat admitted that at first, people were apprehensive of them opening up a concept café, including some family members. Some thought it could be just another fad, or that people might not grasp the idea of a cereal café, thinking it will be serving just the same as what they have at home.

Aside from the criticisms, there was also the conflict of establishing a business while still being part of the corporate world.

Hands-on

Balatbat, who used to write for a magazine, and three other owners quit their jobs so they could focus full time on their business. They had to be hands-on in the operations, even buying boxes of cereals from the grocery and delivering them to the outlet themselves.

But all their efforts paid off by the gradual surge of customers into the café. Soon, students started hanging out in the place, while hospital employees and visitors came in to have their daily dose of the snack.

PEOPLE can have cereals with their choice of toppings, any time of the day.

'Word of mouth'

Through the ever-reliable free advertisement called "word of mouth," the café was frequented by students, trying out all the variants which are named after hit movies, with a twist of humor.

There's Nutting Hill (Notting Hill), the widely considered bestseller; Jumango (Jumanji), cornflakes topped with honey crumble and mango; Harry Butter and the Finger of Azkaban (Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban), honey crunch, butterfinger and candy sprinkles, and their latest, the Pirates of the Cadbury-ean.

"We want to have a comedic appeal, which could make the product appeal to the *masa* (masses). We want to make it funny, and also to make it different from our counterpart in the US," Balatbat says.

Peak hours

Instead of the expected surge of customers in the morning, Cerealicious' peak hours are surprisingly, around lunch and snack times. People go there to have cereal for lunch, which is quite filling since cereals are considered "energy" foods. And even before they head home, students, especially those who are in for a long ride, stop by for a bowl of cereals as their early dinner. "Females, in particular, sometimes use it as meal replacement, cereals for lunch or snack," Balatbat noted.

With the success of the first outlet, the owners decided to put up other branches (café-style and kiosks), most of them inside or near schools.

At present, Cerealicious café already has 10 branches in Metro Manila and one each in Cebu and Davao. With location as a very crucial part, they prefer to be close to schools to be constantly near their target market. Their first branch in a mall (SM North) is also near several schools.

Secret ingredient

Knowing that they have to keep customers coming, they constantly add different flavors to the menu, and with it is their secret ingredient, a milk slush, which "tastes like a melted vanilla ice cream." It is tasty enough, but not too sweet to overpower the cereals and the toppings.

This milk slush also lets one finish a bowl without making the cereals soggy. Aside from that, they also offer cereal treats (cereal pastries and sweets), cereal splits (banana splits sprinkled with cereals) and cereal smoo

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS : (back row) F
Varona; (front) Falcis, Balatbat, and Ronas

Big challenge

For the young owners, the
to actually make the Filipino
of the health benefits of cereal

"We have to educate the
are good since it is fibrous, it h
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says.

Cerealicious is also bank
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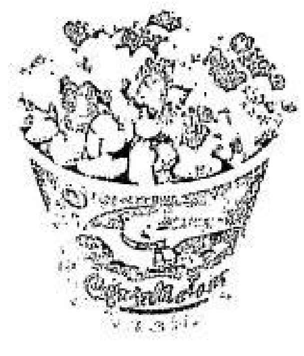

THE GUMMI RETURNS

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A leadership book review

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

BETWEEN MILES 20 and 21 of the Boston Marathon, runners must climb the infamous Heartbreak Hill—over one-half mile of steep incline. Research shows that around the 20-mile mark, marathoners begin to exhaust the stores of energy in their muscles.

For this reason, Heartbreak Hill is positioned at the worst possible point of the race. Just when runners are hitting their peak of physical fatigue, they find themselves staring up an enormous hillside.

This week, let's review Seth Godin's "The Dip: A Little Book That Teaches You When to Quit (And When to Stick)."

His conception of "The Dip" is reminiscent of Heartbreak Hill. He describes The Dip as a place of resistance. Like Heartbreak Hill, The Dip is the point in the journey where people are most likely to quit. It's an obstacle causing the majority of contestants to give up.

"The Dip," Godin writes, "Is the long slog between starting and mastery." The Dip is the inglorious and often difficult process of attainment.

Along life's path, The Dip weeds out competitors, separating the winners from the losers. As Godin writes, "The people who set out to make it through the Dip—the people who invest the time and the energy and the effort to power through the Dip—those are the ones who become the best in the world."

Yet, the ones who make it through The Dip are rare. Most give up. By forcing so many people to quit, The Dip creates scarcity. The Dip thins the ranks until only the best remain.

Readers may expect Godin to adopt a rah-rah tone of cheerleading and encouragement to help people press through The Dip.

On the contrary, Godin advises people to quit before reaching The Dip as often and as adamantly as he argues for them to persevere past it.

In Godin's experience, some Dips are drop-offs to nowhere, and they have no upside.

"If you realize you're at a dead end compared with what you could be investing in," writes Godin, "Quitting is not only a reasonable choice, it's a smart one."

The Dip is a short book and a speedy read, but for those looking to hit the highlights, the following areas are of note: What it means to be the best in the world (pages 10-12), The Dip defined (pages 16-19), the contrast between quitting and failing (page 63), and questions to ask before quitting (pages 66-71).

As a marketing guru, Godin has a penchant for developing trendsetting ideas. His books also have a nimble, creative style which makes them entertaining and memorable.

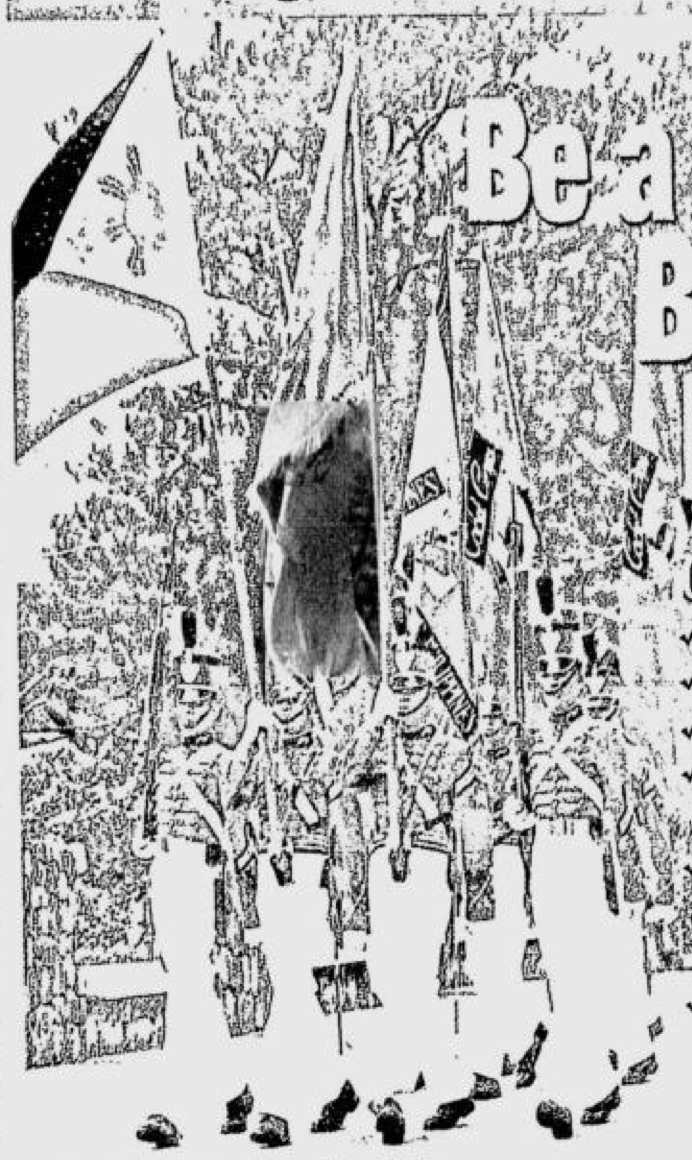
Godin writes as a storyteller rather than an academic, and The Dip draws more from appealing illustrations than concrete research. Readers will find its style compares favorably with many of the longer, more methodical books on business leadership.

In writing The Dip, Seth Godin helps his readers clarify when to quit and when to press forward tenaciously. He encourages leaders to discern what their destination will be on the other side of The Dip. For those who will benefit by struggling through The Dip, Godin offers inspiration.

For those who won't get anything by surviving The Dip, Godin advises them to think about channeling their efforts elsewhere. As a whole, the Dip isn't a book with formulas or five-step takeaways.

Rather, Godin offers up intriguing ideas about the challenging times in life, and how they filter the best from the rest.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please e-mail us at bingericta@gmail.com or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Bing Ericta. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)



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Coco-based products help community get livelihood

Maloles counts Malacañang among customers

Text and Photos
by Niña Catherine Calleja
Inquirer Southern Luzon

ALAMINOS, LAGUNA— MACARIA Maloles, 48, only wanted a simple life and stable job to support her family.

It did not occur to her she would be getting more than that.

"Every time I wake up in the morning, I still think that what is happening to me is but a dream," Maloles says in Filipino.

She is referring to her family's coconut-based business, Maloles Merchandise, that has helped her send her children to school and put up a mini-grocery store.

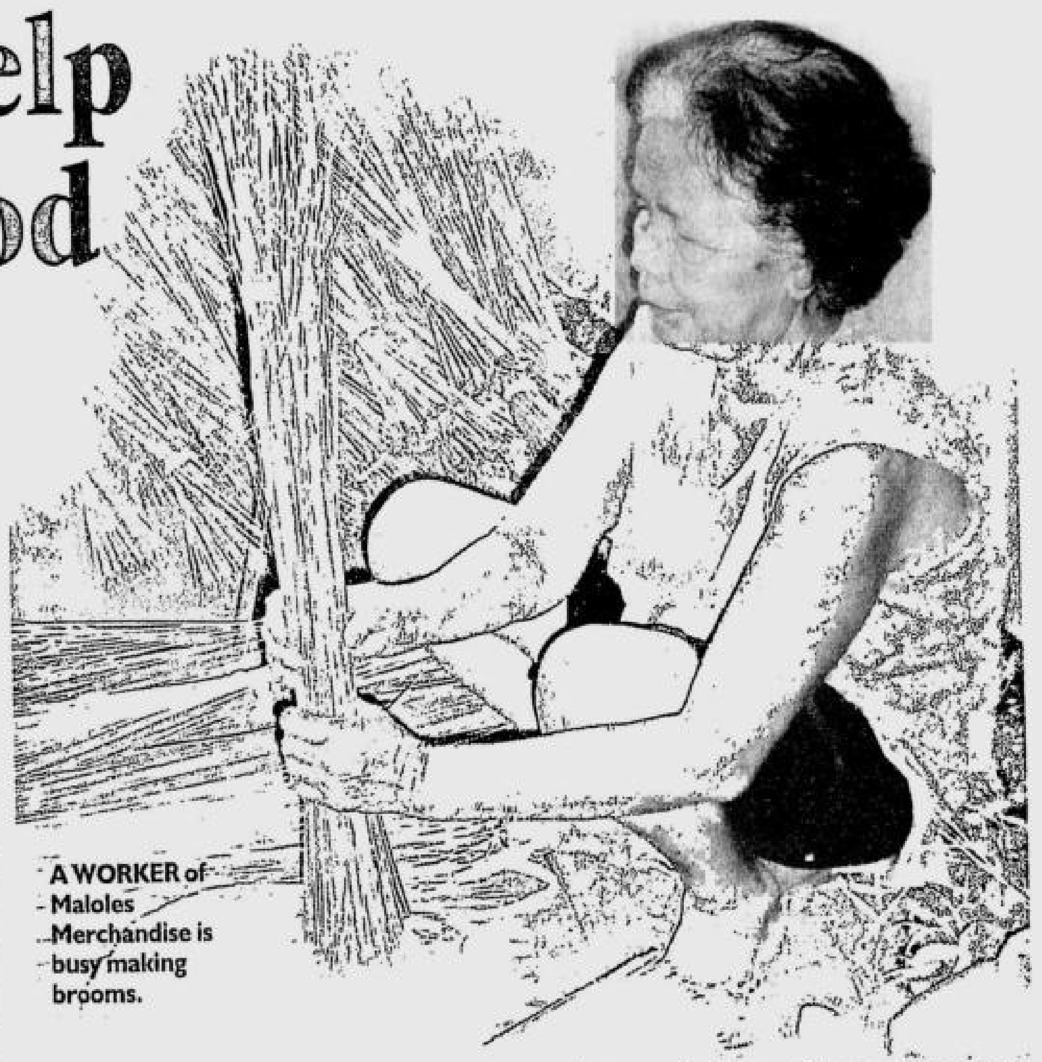
The enterprise is into the manufacture of hard brooms and trading of husks, brushes and other coconut products.

Maloles says her business success did not just benefit her family but her community in Barangay Bagong Silang as well.

Coconut is a major source of livelihood for residents of Alaminos town in Laguna, 78 kilometers south of Manila.

Maloles Merchandise employs five regular workers who come from the neighborhood.

Whenever there are bulk orders, extra workers are hired and paid by the piece.



A WORKER of Maloles Merchandise is busy making brooms.

Living in poverty

Maloles, the fourth in a brood of nine, remembers a childhood mired in poverty.

Her mother, who accepted laundry services, and her father, a seasonal worker in a coconut farm, could hardly support their education.

She says their house was just made of nipa and their windows, of rice sacks.

At 12, Maloles started working in the hard-broom business to finance her schooling.

She gathered the midribs of the coconut leaves to a bundle and then aligned the edge, calling the process "*pagtaktak*." The sticks of the broom came from the coconut leaves that fell on the ground.

She got paid per bundles of 100.

"I went to work every Saturday and Sunday. I used part of the money I earned for my tuition and the rest for my allowance," Maloles recalls.

After graduating from high school, she immediately looked for work in Metro Manila. For six years, she was a production operator in a semiconductor company in Sucat, Parañaque City.

In 1984, she resigned and decided to put up her own business at home without having to leave her then one-year-old child.

From savings

The P1,000 that she earned from working as a production operator was used to buy raw materials and expenses for product delivery.

At that time, only Maloles was engaged in production while her husband, Wilfredo, delivered the hard brooms to markets in Manila.

Even though their budget falls short, she could still manage to save. "If I earn P100 today, for example, I would spend P90 and save the rest."

Maloles says it's really possible for the poor to become entrepreneurs and to surmount poverty.

The business later expanded and allowed them to buy a lot that could be used as another workplace.

They now buy coconut husk and coconut brush from a subcontractor in San Pablo, Laguna, and sell them to Metro Manila markets.

Maloles says that even Malacañang orders 30,000 hard brooms every year.

Profits from the business allowed them to acquire a jeepney and another 500-square-meter lot. She also transformed their old house into a mini-grocery.

Maloles says her store became popular in the village because their customers need not travel far to buy goods.

Some customers would just send text messages and give Maloles a phone call.

Maloles says her problem now is that more coconut farms are being transformed into subdivisions.

They have to buy the raw materials from Quezon province because Laguna, known before for its vast coconut fields, has become a hub of subdivisions.

The government also offers little help to small coconut businessmen, she adds.

She notes, however, that this kind of business could prosper and should get assistance from the government because it gives livelihood to communities. "It helps the women and children in communities with coconut farms," she says, adding that fallen coconut leaves are put into use instead of allowing them to decompose.

The business can be started with only a capital of P10,000, she says.

Children cut the midribs of the coconut leaves and then sell it to buyers like Maloles.

Women in Maloles' neighborhood also get to earn extra in the comfort of their own homes.

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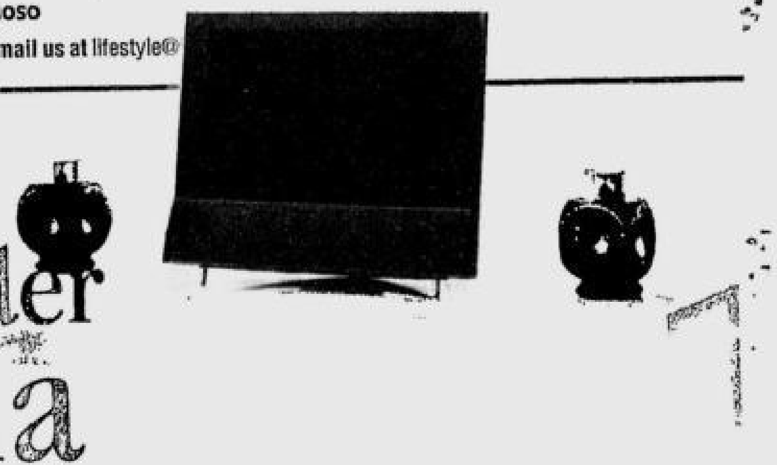
IN THIS ISSUE
Help and hope for hyperactive kids /C2

BLUEPRINT Evol

Danish home entertainment leader comes to Manila

Bang & Olufsen offers audio and video products that often depart from the mainstream philosophy



BEOCENTER in Red

IT IS NOT EVERYDAY THAT A leading international brand sets up shop in Manila, especially one of Danish audio-video giant Bang & Olufsen's caliber.

So when Anton Huang and Stores Specialists, Inc. announced the arrival of this venerable brand, people who have been waiting to get their hands on these top-of-the-line home entertainment systems welcomed the news with arms—and eyes and ears—wide open.

Roger Jonsson, retail development manager for Southeast Asia, admitted they took a long time coming to the Philippines. "We had expanded to China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Singapore before coming here," he said. But the wait is worth it. Bang & Olufsen products are sleek, stunning and state-of-the-art, although Jonsson was wont to describe them using words like "performance," "craftsmanship" and "humanization."

Started as a business venture in 1925 by two young Danish engineers, Peter Bang and Svend Olufsen (now you know why the name), the company is renowned for its distinctive range of quality consumer electronic products that combine technological excellence with immense emotional appeal. More specifically, it has become one of the most commercially successful leaders in home entertainment audio and video products.

Building sound

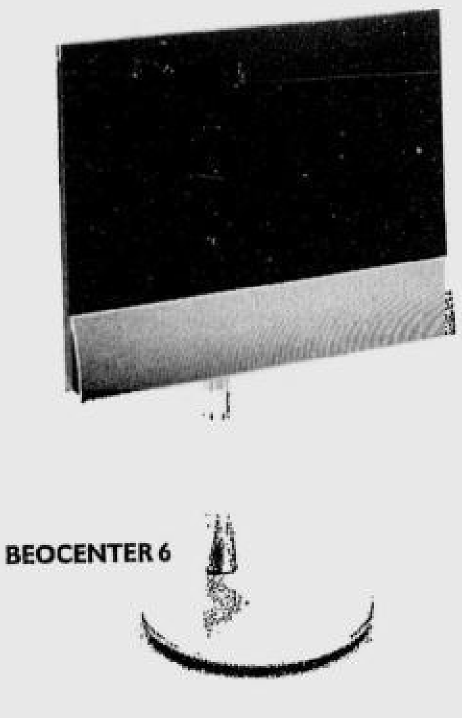
Jonsson was quick to admit, however, that the brand had never been the popular choice among audiophiles. "Rather, we create ways to deviate from the usual philosophy and technology to build sound," he said.

This speaks true of Bang & Olufsen's product philosophy. The company's goal is to make technology work in a way that adds value to the products in everyday use. Among the company's core competencies are the deliberate choice of leading edge components and materials, and its special attention to the surface of the finished product.

Bang & Olufsen offers tailor-made solutions that put premium on quality, innovation and design, as well as ensure a truly satisfying listening and viewing experience. It strives to ensure picture reproduction faithful to real-life experience while giving flat screen TVs a new dimension, as in the ultra modern BeoVision 8.

DANISH/ C2

BEOSOUND 9



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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2889 SERIES OF 2007

CHILDREN with ADHD
SPEAKERS: ADHD Society of the Phil.

MEMBERS of the AD/HD Society doing their school caravan

Helping hyperkids

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

AN EXASPERATED GRADE school teacher says, "My whole class has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder!" While theoretically possible, I doubt that all 40 of her Grade 5 boys suffer from AD/HD. But certainly, AD/HD has become a popular term in our culture.

Statistics show that AD/HD is on the rise in the US, and through the years, I have received increasing requests to work with AD/HD children and teens. However, teachers who are rigid and impatient may sometimes label their students AD/HD even if the latter are merely active.

Ten-year-old Carl tells me, "My teacher says I have AD/HD, so I have to see you." But he sits through an entire Disney movie without fidgeting in his seat, and completes his math and English homework without any help. True, he is talkative in class, but he is bored. I end up thinking that I should be helping the teacher instead.

However, many children (and adults) do suffer from inattention (Attention Deficit Disorder), restlessness (hyperactivity) or a combination of both (AD/HD), which occurs more in boys, with ratios ranging from four to nine boys for every girl.

How can we distinguish normal *likot* from AD/HD? Look for certain symptoms that should be present before the child turns seven years. *(See sidebar.)*

These signs should appear in two or more settings (school and home, not just in one of them), causing significant impairment in academic or social relationships.

Causes

There is no single cause of AD/HD, but research has turned up some factors. Some children may suffer from infection or trauma while still in the womb. Mothers who do drugs or alcohol or who smoke may contribute to their child's AD/HD, especially if there is a family history. Data have shown that AD/HD occurs more in twins and siblings, and may be passed down from parent to child.

Chemical factors may also be involved, though this is a controversial theory. Attention has focused on food colorings and preservatives, but such claims have not been totally validated. However, it may not hurt to minimize exposure to additives, including excess sugar or caffeine.

We can also control our environment. Recently, US pediatricians have linked AD/HD to excessive exposure to TV or computer games, and have recommended that children do not watch TV at all before the age of two.

What teachers can do

US educator Sandra Rief gives tips for teachers handling AD/HD children:

- Don't assume that the child is lazy or defiant when he does not perform up to par. He may just be inconsistent. Sometimes he can do the work, and sometimes he cannot.
- Don't give up on the child, no matter how discouraged you are. He needs your belief and support that he can eventually succeed.
- Try behavior modification techniques, and use positive reinforcement. For instance, use colorful materials the student can focus on for learning multiplication rather than drills. Recognize every success, however small.
- Work with the pediatrician and other support staff.
- Be sensitive to parents' frustration and fears, and plan strategies for working together for the child's benefit.
- Do not listen to previous teachers who complain about the child. Allow him to start with a clean slate.
- Be creative in evaluating and assessing the child. You do not have to lower standards, but allow for some flexibility in dealing with him. For instance, make the child sit in a quiet corner while taking tests to minimize distractions.

Good prognosis

Take heart. Most AD/HD children who receive proper treatment function very well in school and in the workplace. In fact, with the support of parents and doctors, some of my AD/HD students not only keep up with the rest of their classmates, but through hard work and determination, at times exceed my (and their own) expectations.

AD/HD should not stop our youth from being the best they can be.

For more information on AD/HD, visit www.adhdsociety-ph.org, the website of the AD/HD Society of the Philippines.

Does my child have AD/HD?

THE "DIAGNOSTIC AND Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV" gives the official criteria for determining attention or hyperactivity problems in children. For each category, a child should have exhibited six or more of the following behaviors for at least six months. If you feel your child has AD/HD, consult a professional.

For inattention:

1. He fails to pay close attention to details. (Example: He makes careless mistakes in schoolwork.)
2. He finds it difficult to sustain attention in tasks or play. (He cannot sit still even while watching his favorite video.)
3. He does not seem to listen when spoken to directly, even by someone he respects.
4. He does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork or chores. Make sure that this is not because the child cannot understand instructions or is simply defiant.
5. He finds it difficult to organize tasks and activities. (He writes all over the page without any planning.)
6. He avoids tasks that require sustained attention, such as homework.
7. He loses things necessary for such tasks. (He misplaces books often.)
8. He is easily distracted by extraneous stimuli. (Once the dog barks, he cannot resume work.)
9. He is forgetful in daily activities. (He forgets to bring books home.)

For hyperactivity:

1. He fidgets with his hands or feet. He constantly squirms.
2. He leaves his seat in class or other situations when remaining seated is expected, such as church.
3. He runs about or climbs excessively in inappropriate situations.
4. He finds it difficult to play quietly. (Games such as blocks bore him.)
5. He is always on the go.
6. He talks excessively. (He cannot stop chatting even when scolded by the teacher.)
7. He blurts out answers even before questions are done.
8. He finds it difficult to wait for his turn. (He elbows kids to get ahead in line.)
9. He intrudes on others. (He butts into games and conversations that do not involve him.)

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Driven to distraction

JOE IS THE TYPE OF STUDENT that a teacher never forgets.

In one semester back in 2004, Joe sat in the front row of my class at the Ateneo. He was an unusual young man who would blurt out his thoughts in the middle of a discussion or exam and had no qualms about sleeping on his desk when someone was presenting a report.

For some reason, I could not find it in my heart to get mad at him. He was a tall and lanky young man, an astute student who wrote very insightful, heartwarming papers.

One day, close to the end of the semester, he casually told me, "Ma'am, I have AD/HD."

In my heart, that very moment, I was thankful that I never told him off in class for what I sometimes thought was odd behavior. After his disclosure, I got to know more about how his parents had nurtured and supported him through his struggles and how his home life was his anchor and shelter during those times when he felt lost.

Today, Joe is a graduate student majoring in communications at the Ateneo. He is a testament to a parent's unconditional love and a school's openness toward students with learning disabilities.

AD/HD, one of the most common neurobehavioral disorders, can negatively impair many aspects of daily life, including home, school, work and interpersonal relationships

DITAS and King Martelino

Chronic disorder

AD/HD is a chronic disorder that can affect nearly every aspect of life. Children and adults with AD/HD often struggle with low self-esteem, troubled personal relationships and poor performance in school or at work. A 2002 Mayo Clinic study showed that attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) affects up to 7.5 percent of school-age children. Previous studies had estimated the occurrence of AD/HD to be anywhere between one and 20 percent of school-age children.

It is now known that AD/HD nearly always persists from childhood to adolescence and that many symptoms continue into adulthood. Studies have shown that there is a very strong genetic component to AD/HD. Usually a parent discovers it only when he or she sees it in his/her own child.

Ditas Martelino is the president of the AD/HD society of the Philippines. For the last seven years, she has been an advocate for children afflicted with this disorder. Martelino knows all too well the struggles that a parent has to face when one's child is diagnosed with AD/HD, because she has two of her own—King, 15, now a second-year high-school student, and Celine, a junior communications student at Miriam College.

As part of her advocacy and as one of the society's services, Martelino, together with some members of her group, go on an AD/HD school caravan to inform parents and educators about AD/HD and how it is best managed in the regular classroom. Currently, says Martelino, the group has 400 members, but she expects the numbers to rise.

"There are many undiagnosed cases because there is a lack of awareness among parents, educators and medical practitioners. My prayer really is to save as many children as I can from having to go through the unnecessary trauma and ridicule that they are prone to receive in their homes or schools."

Behavioral patterns

According to the website Help For AD-HD (http://www.help4adhd.org), AD/HD is one of the most common neurobehavioral disorders. It can negatively impair many aspects of daily life, including home, school, work and interpersonal relationships. The principal characteristics of AD/HD listed by the National Institute for Mental Health (NIMH)—inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity—appear early in a child's life.

Because many normal children may have these symptoms but at a low level, or the symptoms may be caused by another disorder, it is important that the child receive a thorough examination and appropriate diagnosis by a well-qualified professional.

"All children are sometimes restless, sometimes act without thinking, sometimes daydream the time away. When the child's hyperactivity, distractibility, poor concentration or impulsivity begin to affect performance in school, social relationships with other children, or behavior at home, AD/HD may be suspected. But because the symptoms vary so much across settings, AD/HD is not easy to diagnose. This is especially true when inattentiveness is the primary symptom," according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

If you suspect that your child has AD/HD, Martelino suggests that an early diagnosis be made by either a developmental pediatrician, a pediatric neurologist or a child psychologist.

"You can spare you and your child a lot of heartache if you are able to catch it early on," she says.

One bright AD/HD child wrote, "AD/HD has been a blessing to me. You become aware of things that normal people aren't aware of and become generally more 'street-smart' and 'real' than other normal people."

Children like Joe, King, Celine and many others show us how brilliance can shine through the seeming distractions and demonstrate to us how life should be lived, one moment at a time.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

BEOSOUND 4

Danish . . .

From page C1

Bang & Olufsen also delights music lovers with the BeoSound 4, a compact audio system that exploits digital music storage and portability while offering the quality performance and usability expected from a traditional Bang & Olufsen audio system.

Similarly, Bang & Olufsen has devised many ways of combining several entertainment sources into a single unit for what is known in the industry as integration.

With amazing sound quality also comes the design language that Bang & Olufsen never fails to express in materials, surface, finish, shape and the overall look and feel of their products.

The new Bang & Olufsen store is located on the ground floor of Greenbelt 3.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

An affair 2 months after wedding

DEAR EMILY,

I am a 29-year-old IT professional who got married in October 2006. My husband worked as manager in a call center in Makati.

I am generally happy with my life. But, though I have a good job, supportive friends, my sisters are doing well and my parents have a loving relationship, my marriage is a failure.

My husband started an affair in December, two months after our wedding. I moved out of our house in January and decided to return in May because I could not bear the thought of having our marriage annulled after barely two months of living together.

God has been good to us. His girlfriend is no longer in the country. She now works as a flight attendant in the Middle East. This week my husband is starting a new job in another company.

After months of trying, we have slowly become friends and are now enjoying each other's company. We do what normal married couples do... we cook and share our meals together, we go to church, watch movies. He drives me to work, etc.

We talk about our day and share our hopes and dreams. If I base our marriage on his actions alone, I would be a happy wife.

The problem is my husband claims to feel no love for me anymore. He says he is still "in love" with the girl who left him and he continues to communicate with her.

This hurts me a lot. His actions denote love but his words say otherwise. I am torn whether I should move on or work it out with a man who says he does not love me.

When is the right time to say "it's over"?

MARIE

It is amazing to hear that there are still women like you who take marriage vows seriously—for better or for worse—when that institution is mocked, taken for granted, and discarded like a dirty rag.

Your husband had a bit of whimsy early on but you did not give up.

You keep on loving him like he has never been loved before. Make him feel like a million dollars by the way you care for him, the way you talk to him, and, more importantly, by the way you make him feel about himself when he is with you.

This may help him forget what's-her-face sooner than you think. Make him see the difference between an affair and a good marriage. Give him a home he will want to return to at the end of the day.

Keep on reinforcing the fence around your marriage. It is still weak so you will need all your patience, thick skin and endurance to withstand the storm that is still battering it.

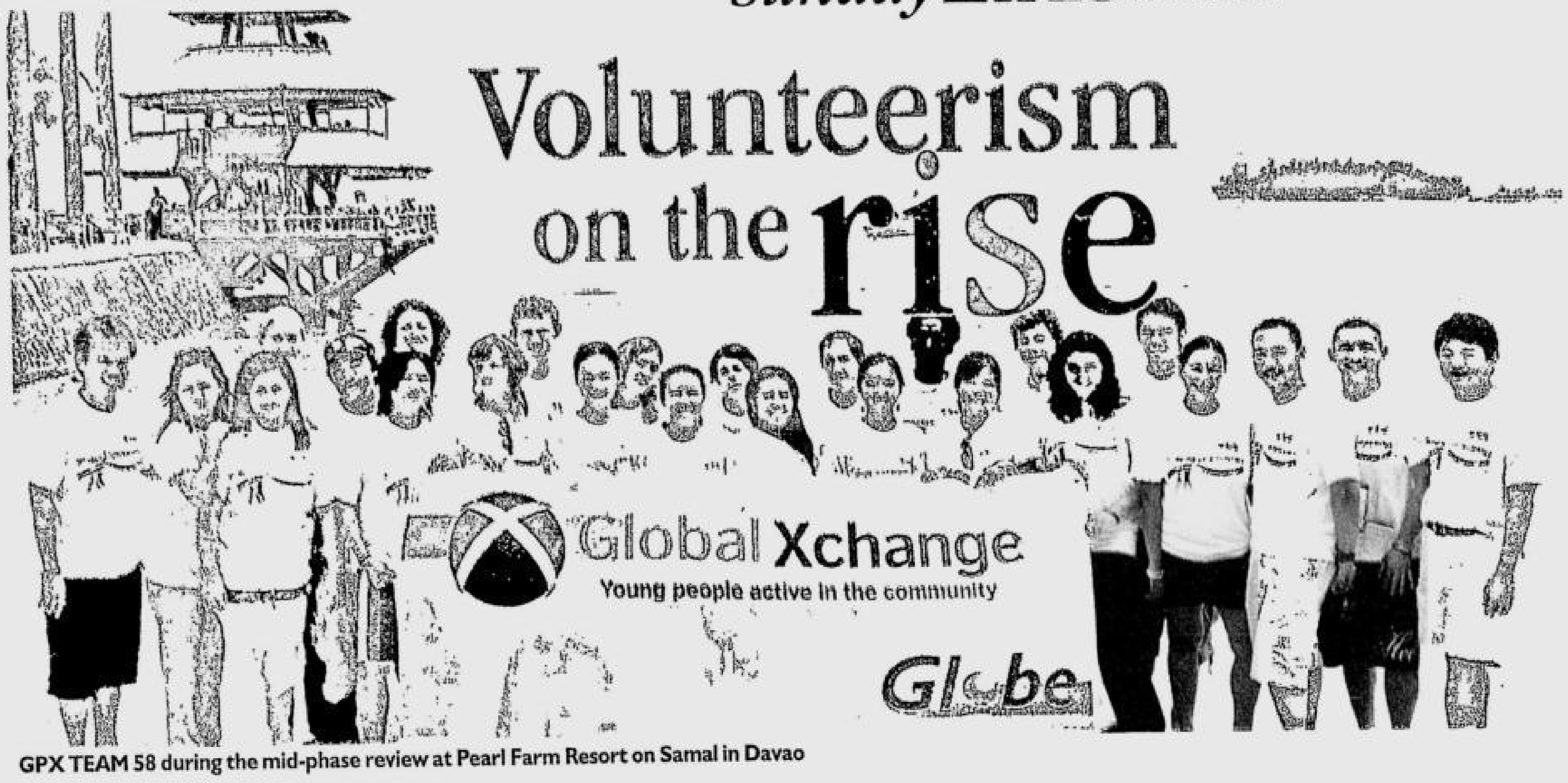
Remember that what men say is usually not what they really feel. Often, they are just creeps.

When is the right time to say it is over, you ask? There is no deadline if the husband you married is worth fighting for—or keeping.

It takes men a long while to recognize a good thing or what is good for them. They can be really stupid sometimes, but they are not always blind.

(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER*. Log on to www.pbs.gov.ph and listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.)*

Volunteerism on the rise


Global Xchange
Young people active in the community
Globe

GPX TEAM 58 during the mid-phase review at Pearl Farm Resort on Samal in Davao

By Constantino C. Tejero

BEFORE IT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS CSR, the byword "corporate social responsibility" had been bandied about by conscience-stricken corporations in the late 1980s and early '90s as Big Business became synonymous with "greed" and *yuppie* was becoming a dirty word.

Now, some of these corporations have even ventured into volunteerism (trendy these days) to share with the community part of the benefits they've received from it. Tasks for the volunteers range from cultural and global education for local schools, to community cleanups, house-building, fundraising for local charity—or anything that would have "a positive and practical contribution to community initiatives."

Global Xchange is one such program. By sponsoring it, corporations would be helping "to develop and share valuable skills and to make a practical contribution where it is needed in local communities."

An exchange program for young people, it was formed in 2004 in the United Kingdom by the Voluntary Service Overseas (or VSO, voted top international development charity in the International Aid and Development category in the Charity Awards 2004); the Community Service Volunteers (CSV); and the British Council (the world's largest international cultural-relations organization, operating in 109 countries for over 70 years).

Modeled after the World Youth program developed in Canada over 30 years ago, Global Xchange reached the Philippines in 2005. The three founding organizations took as implementing partner Bahaginan, a development organization committed to fighting global poverty and offering Filipino professionals the opportunity to share their skills with the disadvantaged in other developing countries.

BRITISH volunteer with indigenous children

> The youth exchange program Global Xchange finds a local partner in Globe Telecom's corporate social responsibility program, Globe BridgeCom

TWO for the bridge during community immersion

SHOWCASING the native culture

Global connectivity

Recently the program was joined by Globe Telecom through its CSR program Globe BridgeCom.

"Since Globe and Global sound similar, and its slogan 'Bridging communities' is also our aim, everything perfectly fits," Bahaginan program manager Robby Nazal says in a light vein.

Globe BridgeCom is now its partner in the Philippines, as CSV is the partner in the UK.

"We give financial support and connectivity by providing SIM cards and load to the volunteers," says Globe public-relations head Jones Campos. "We also share ideas and expertise in community relations during activity sessions."

This year, a team of 10 Filipino youths has been chosen to take part in the Davao-Southampton and Cagayan de Oro-Bradford exchange. Volunteers are selected "to reflect in terms of geography, ethnicity, ability, education and gender."

In March, they were sent to the two UK cities to meet with their British counterparts and go into the immersion program, living with host families and working in host communities.

For the second half of the program, in June, they and their partners came to the Philippines where they will stay until September.

Mid-phase review

On the last weekend of July, they came together in Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City for a mid-phase review. At a luncheon-forum, they met the press and gave testimonials assessing their experiences in both countries.

"It's to ensure that the program is meeting its aims and objectives," says Globe community-relations head Jeffrey Tarayao.

They went mostly in pairs and talked alternately. Some were shy and nervous, others articulate and light-hearted.

Chely Vibal from Manila and Laura Chillag from Wigan related their respective experiences with women's access to vital education services in the communities they were working in. Steffan Harris from Wales and Junica Soriano from Pasig explained an alternate forum for research in Mindanao.

Philip Commeyne from Quezon City talked about his experience with people collaborating for economic and environmental management.

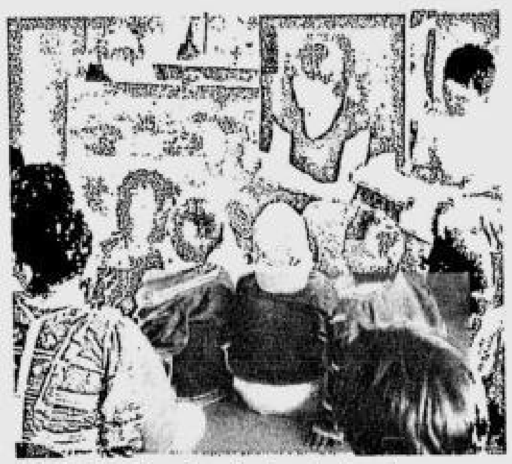
The most loquacious and cheery was the Londoner Edward Aboagye, whose parents immigrated from Ghana. He narrated how people in the indigenous community he was working in was at first wary of him, he being black and a foreigner. He found a way into their hearts only when the children took him for a star basketball player.

As its stated aim says, Global Xchange hopes "to build mutual respect and understanding among young people, and to encourage attitudes that will enable them to become active citizens in an increasingly global world."

So here's one program that offers Big Business the opportunity to unburden its conscience. What's more, it makes the place more livable and life worth living.

PARK cleanup in Eastleigh, UK

VOLUNTEERS take part in an energizer activity at St. Mary's Fire Station in Southampton



GLOBAL education for local school

STAYING connected as global citizens

LEARNING the natives' way

Oil giant launches reading program in Cebu

WHEN CHEVRON PHILIPPINES INC. launched the Caltex Mentor Program (CMP) in Lo-ok Elementary School in Cebu, officials and educators alike welcomed the initiative, as it addressed the problem of non-readers in public schools growing at an alarming rate.

The CMP is Chevron Philippines' flagship volunteer program that enables its employees and their families, customers, and various business partners to address the issue, also known as students at risks (STARS), in public schools.

Under the program, CMP volunteers tutored these children on a one-on-one basis in reading in both English and Filipino for four consecutive Saturdays.

Diverse group

Committing four Saturdays to this literacy endeavor was a diverse group of volunteer mentors. Lani Pineda, the wife of CPI Lapu-Lapu terminal manager Willie Pineda, said she found it very rewarding to share her time with the kids.

"I actually had a hard time at first considering I did not have any teaching background, except when I used to teach my own children when they were young. I understand that some of the students from public schools do not get the same attention from their parents for economic reasons, so *malaking bagay ito sa kanila* (this is a big deal for them)," she said.

Other volunteers came from the oil company's partners from the local academe and civic organizations, like Marie Elinoe Lancale, a high school junior from the University of Southern Philippines, who said, "The CMP is a great solution in matching people like me who want to help but don't know how, and children in need like the Lo-ok non-readers."

Lancale and 27 of the student mentors are members of the Interact, a scion of the Rotary Club in the University of the Southern Philippines Foundation, one of the partners of Chevron in this program.

Volunteer mentor Ellen Grace Torres said there were times that she wanted to give up. But her compassion for Cris Mae Juario prevailed. Juario, now 14, is a "repeater." She repeated the Grade 1 level three times because of her poor academic performance.

Unique component

The mentors' dedication to their commitment paid off after a month when their students' reading skills were tested. One of the unique components of the CMP is the pre- and post-session examinations of the target non-readers to gauge the effectiveness of the mentoring.

Based on results, several non-readers who got zero from their literacy exams posted the highest scores a month later. Grade one pupil Sarah Jane Timbalan was awarded the "Most Improved Student" of the CMP Cebu's pioneer batch of 38 former non-readers during the recognition ceremony that concluded the four-week mentoring sessions.

Parents, teachers and volunteers from Chevron Philippines Inc. also attended the affair.

PROBLEM of the WEEK

CHEVRON Lapu-Lapu Terminal manager and Caltex Mentor Program volunteer Willie Pineda helps two children focus on the basics of reading during a session.

CALTEX Mentor Program volunteers with their students.

Lo-ok Elementary School principal Lorena Degamo confirmed that there was indeed a great change among the students. "We were very happy with the results, which proved that the students' reading abilities have improved."

City Councilor Celia Malingin, a retired teacher who chairs the committee on education in the Lapu-Lapu City Council, praised Chevron Philippines Inc. for organizing the project and its decision to introduce theprogram in Cebu. She said the Lapu-Lapu City government will always welcome similar projects. City District School Superintendent Leonilo Oliva said the project was a great contribution to public schools.

Multi-awarded program

Launched in 2002, the multi-awarded program has touched the lives of more than 1,000 students and about the same number of volunteers in key areas of the Philippines such as Pandacan, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Batangas, Pangasinan, Iloilo City. The Lo-ok CMP is the program's first expansion in Cebu.

The CMP won the prestigious 2003 IABC Gold Quill Awards for Community Relations barely four months after it was launched. It was also a finalist in the Asian CSR Awards 2004 in the Support and Improvement of Education category, chosen from 197 entries submitted by 110 organizations in 15 countries. In February 2006, the program bagged its third award, the Anvil Award of Merit in the Public Affairs-Education category.

a homemaker's guide to value shopping

SM Homeworld's All-Out August showcase is overflowing with terrific finds at tempting price breaks.

Here are a few tips to help you take home loads of great buys at greater savings.

Decor

set the mood

of any room with a flick of the switch and a tabletop floral accent from the Decor Section

Glassware

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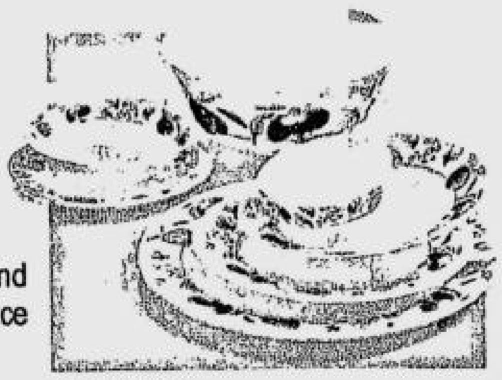
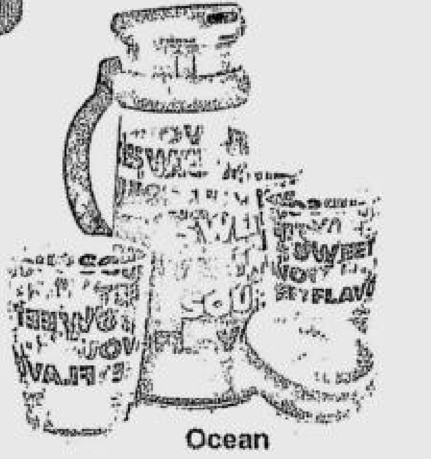
with elegant stemware and tastefully patterned table service from the Glassware Section



Luminarc



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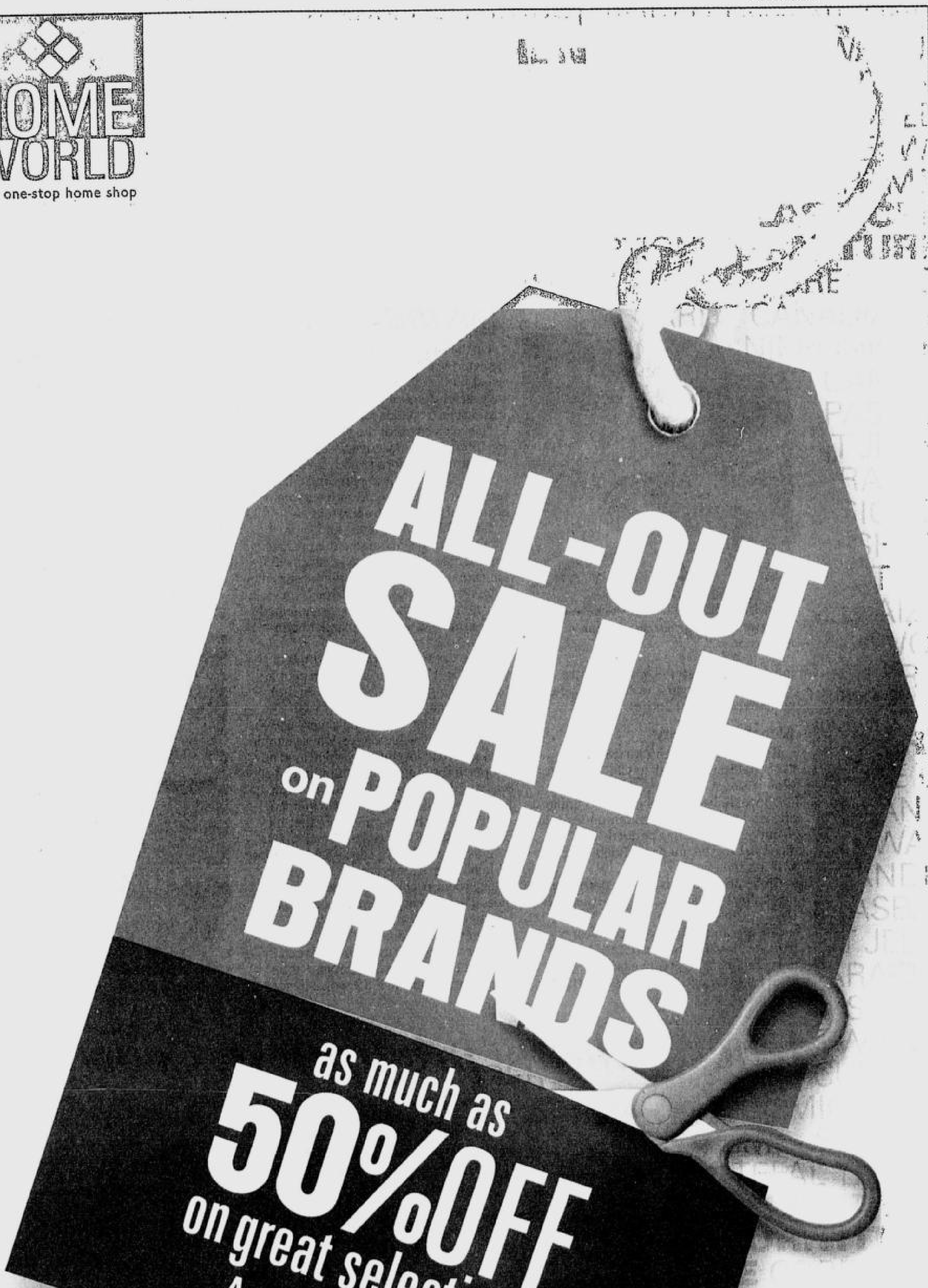

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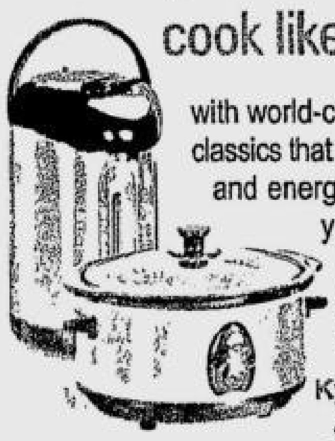
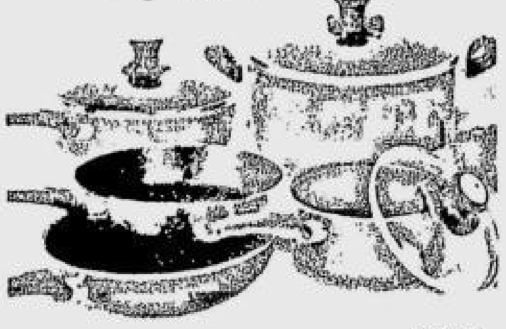


Kyowa

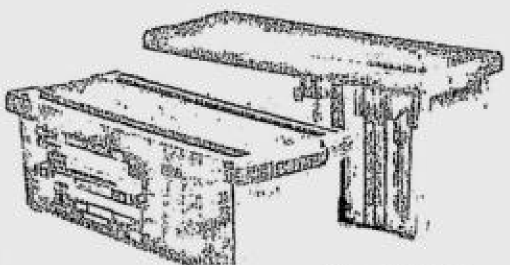


Tefal

Plasticware

sort 'n store

conquer space with cool buys on storage solutions at the Plasticware Section



Fine Living

Linen

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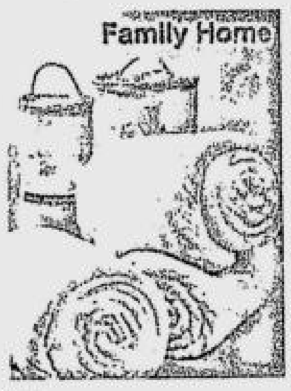
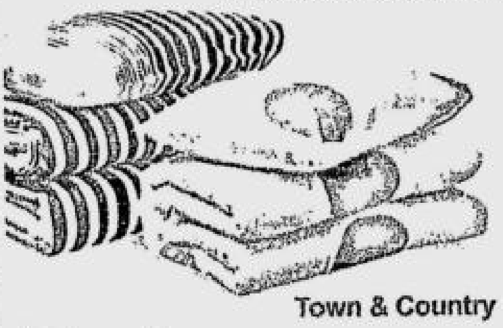
with bed and bath ensembles that are as soft and plump as they are thick and fluffy – all yours to choose from at the Linen Section



Family Home

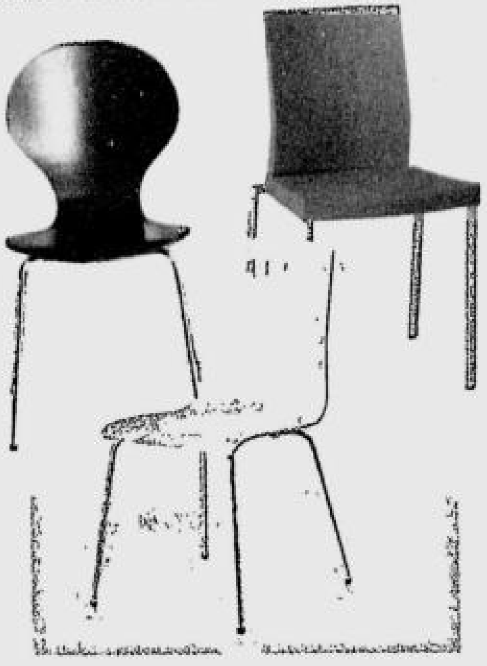


Town & Country

Furniture

take a seat . . .

stack up on easy-care chairs in your choice of contemporary designs and new colors at the Furniture Section



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From Fatima to Madrid: Reflections on a Marian pilgrimage

By Maria R.M. Sison
Contributor

ACCORDING TO BLESSED Guerric of Igny, "All things are possible to the one who believes, there is no doubt about it."

Last April 26-May 10, my parents and I joined other participants from the Saint Bernard Parish in Los Angeles, California for a 14-day pilgrimage to Marian sites in Fatima, Portugal; Lourdes, France; and Spain.

This would be the last pilgrimage for my dad because he soon became bedridden. My mom's physical health is also on the decline and her ability to walk is also restricted. But they both have faith that is constant and unwavering, and I have no doubt that it was what made the pilgrimage possible for my 87-year-old father and my soon-to-be-80 mother.

PILGRIMS. The author with parents

The eve before our departure, we were treated to a fabulous dinner with wine and flamenco entertainment.

Nasmiah, our main tour guide who speaks three languages, shared valuable information on the cultural, social and economic heritage of Spain. She christened our group after three of our priorities: pitstops, shopping and food.

Fatima, Portugal

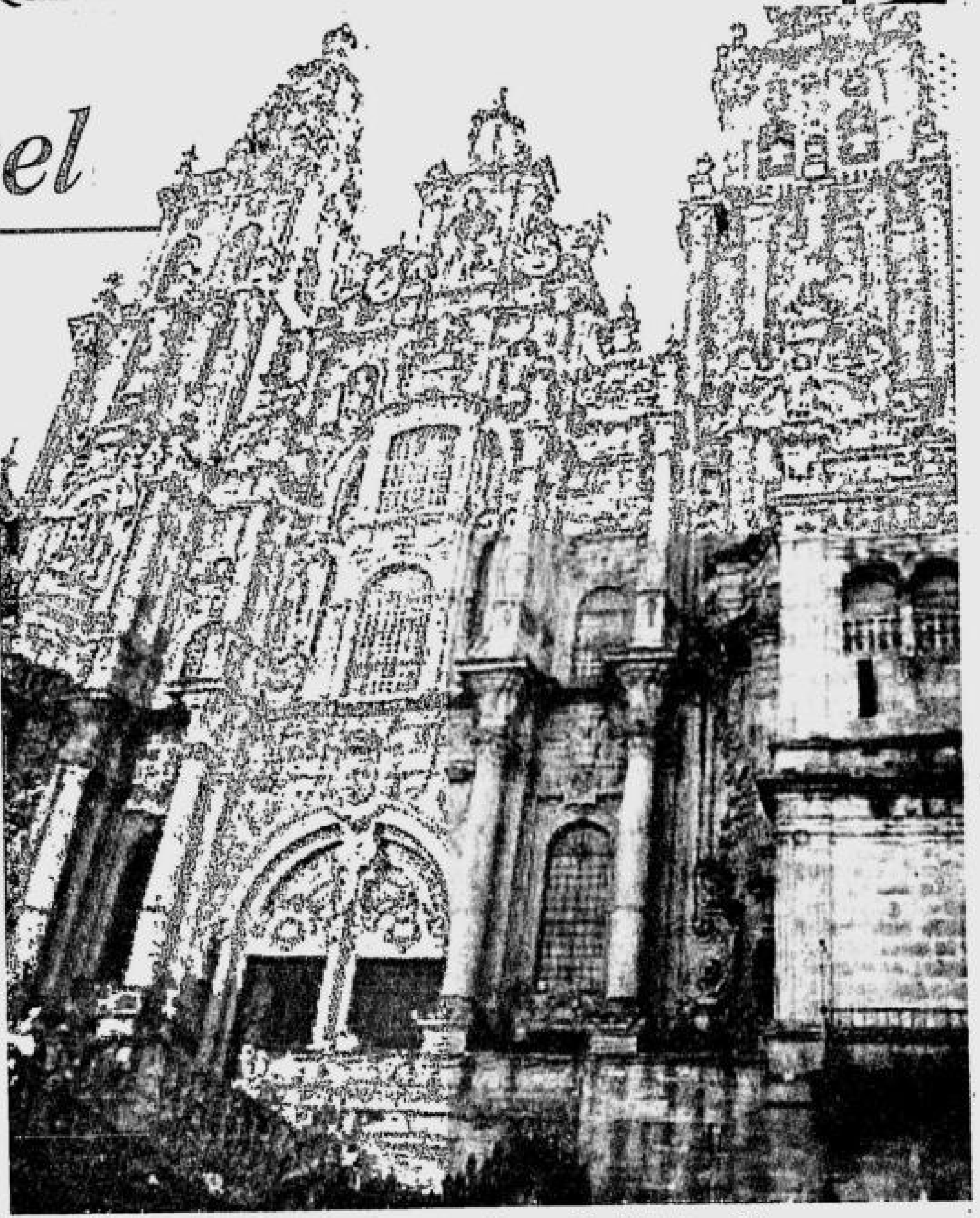
We were very excited as my mom, myself and some members of our tour group were here for the first time. After breakfast, we got in the big green-and-white bus with the name Julia printed on the side.

We passed by the original house of the three shepherd children to whom Our Blessed Mother appeared in May 1917. The siblings Francisco and Jacinta Marto at that time were 8 and 6, respectively. Their cousin Lucia de Jesus was 9. We briefly saw a few of the relatives of these three visionaries.

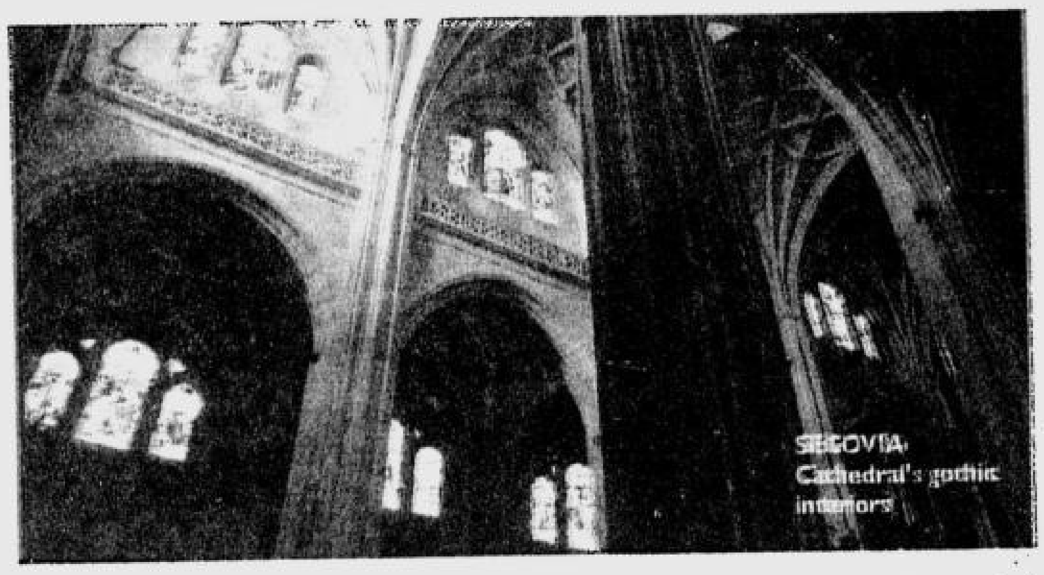
Rev. Gerald McSorley and Rev. Msgr. Patrick McNulty, pastor and pastor emeritus, respectively, were part of our group. They celebrated Masses, said prayers and blessed the gifts and souvenirs purchased throughout the trip.

In the evening, we joined a candlelight procession.

FROM/ D4



BRAGA-SANTIAGO de Compostella, Spain, a Unesco World Heritage Site



SEGOVIA: Cathedral's gothic interiors

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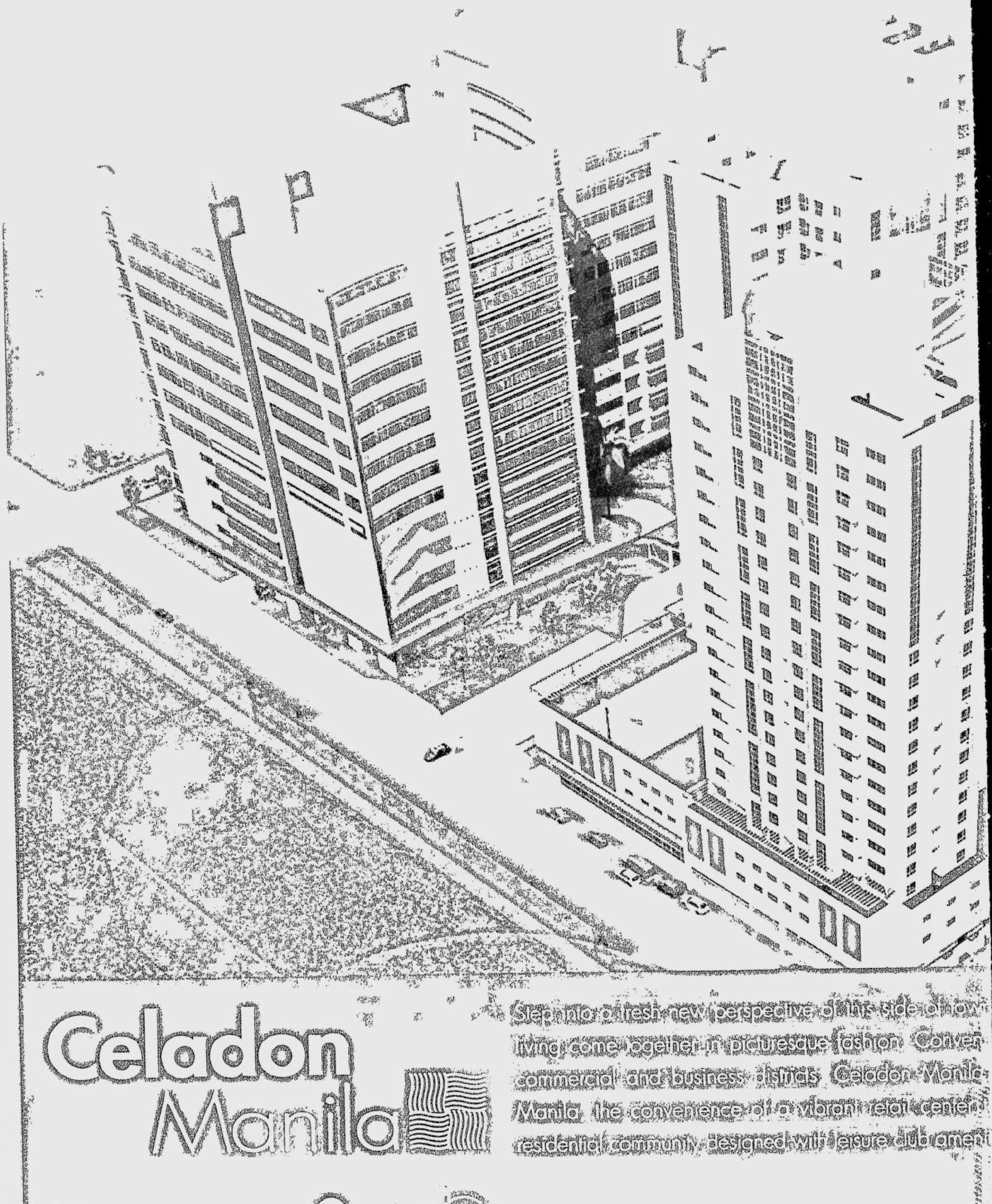

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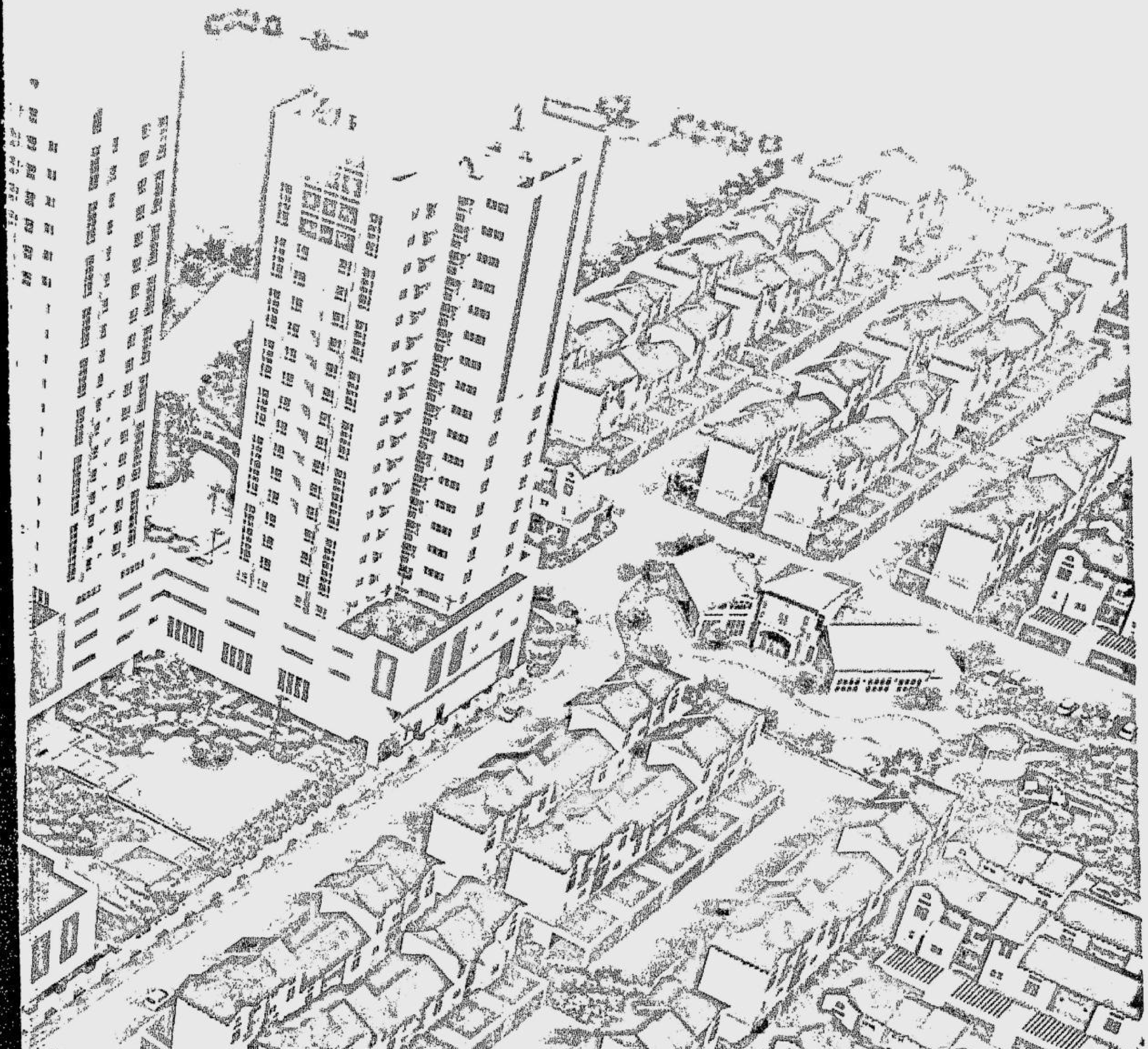

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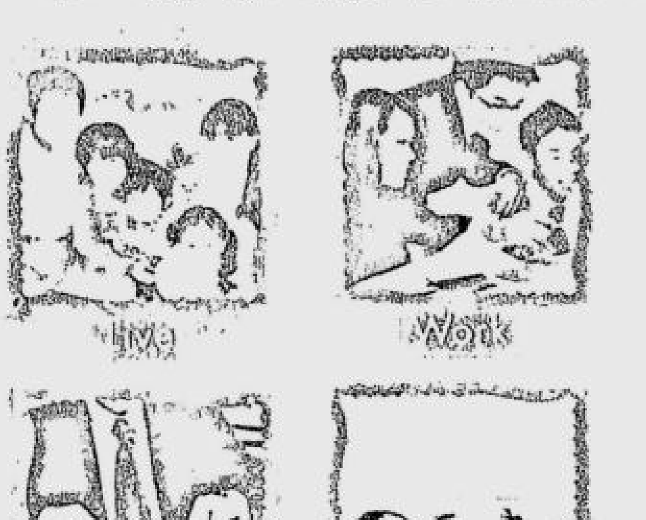

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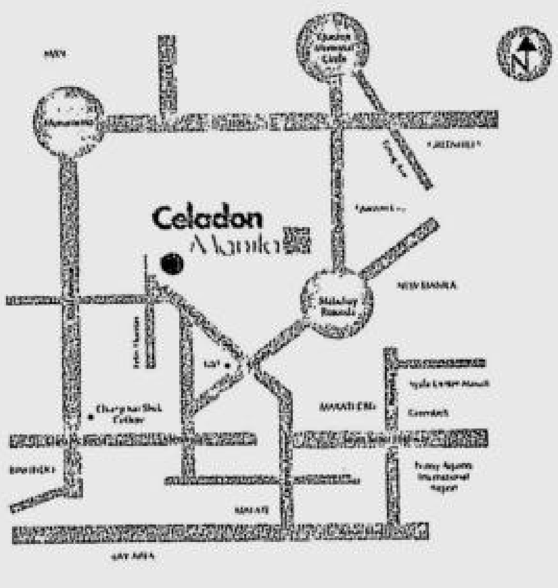
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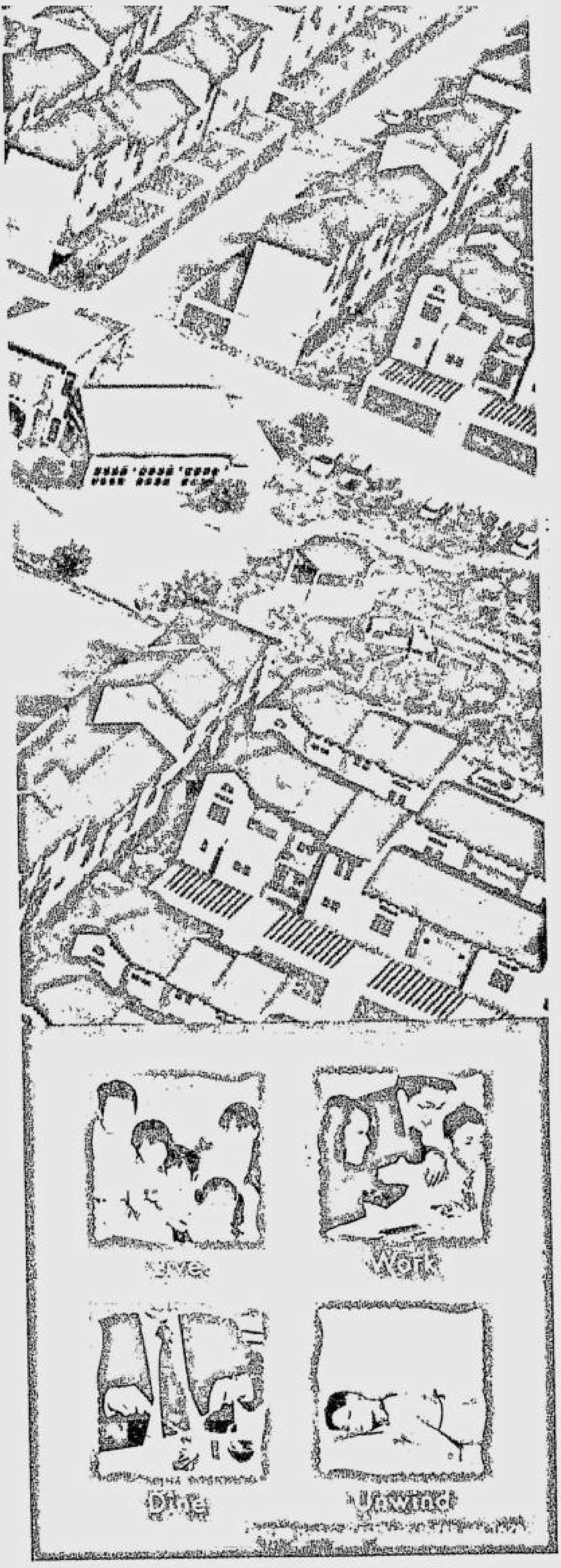

Live
Work
Dine
Unwind

From Fatima to Madrid: Reflections on a Marian pilgrimage

From page D1

Braga and Santiago de Compostella, Spain

The next day, we proceeded north to Braga, once the seat of the Primate of All Spain in medieval times. When I saw the remains of a tower structure, somehow what entered my mind was that the crusaders and those who rode on horses to defend and preserve the Christian faith could have passed this way in those days of fighting for peace, honor, faith and country.

Today there are those who continue to fight for peace, honor, faith and country though not on horseback or with the same weapons.

Upon arriving in Santiago de Compostella, the group viewed the Shrine of Saint James. The tomb of Saint James the Great, brother of the evangelist John, was moved here after his martyrdom and the Cathedral, one of the popular pilgrimage spots, was founded and built on this site.

The July 25 issue of the Magnificat mentions Saint James being present at most of the miracles performed by Christ and that around 42-44 AD he was put to death by Herod, making him one of the first martyrs after Christ.

Just as important as filling the soul is filling the body. The staple meal consisted of chicken, potatoes, bread and wine throughout our trip.

Thankfully, my father speaks fluent Spanish and can be trusted to make suggestions on where to eat. He has a special fondness for Spain since, in his younger years, he trained here as a chemist making soaps and perfumes.

At one seafood place he recommended, we ate with gusto tasty crabs and seafood. After filling ourselves, we found out that it was only the first course!

The food servers were just waiting for us to finish before they served another course of fish and rice in good-sized portions. We had a hearty laugh over that experience.

Yummy goodies were available at corner shops. A particular favorite was a *yema*-like pastry.

Still in Spain, we admiringly gazed at the architecture of the Gothic Cathedral in Leon, which was the capital of Christian Spain at the start of the Reconquest. Light streamed through the cathedral and the interplay of light and color was grand.

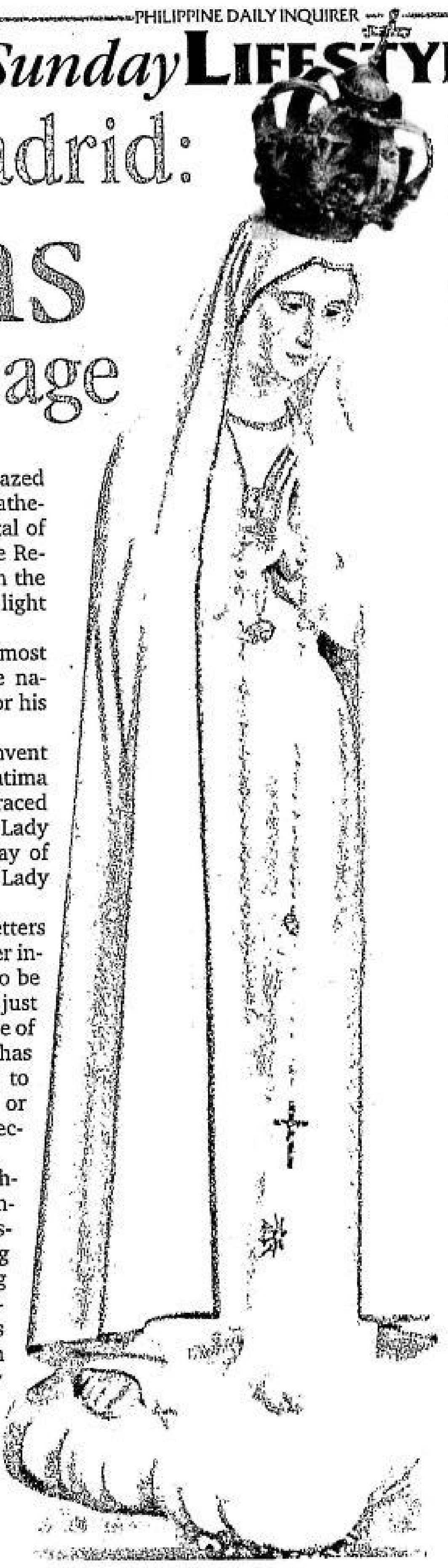
Then we went to Burgos whose most famous resident was El Cid, the national hero who was legendary for his chivalry.

It was a privilege to visit the convent in Pontevedra where Lucia, the Fatima seer who became a nun, was graced with more apparitions by Our Lady who asked that the first Saturday of every month be reserved for Our Lady of the Rosary.

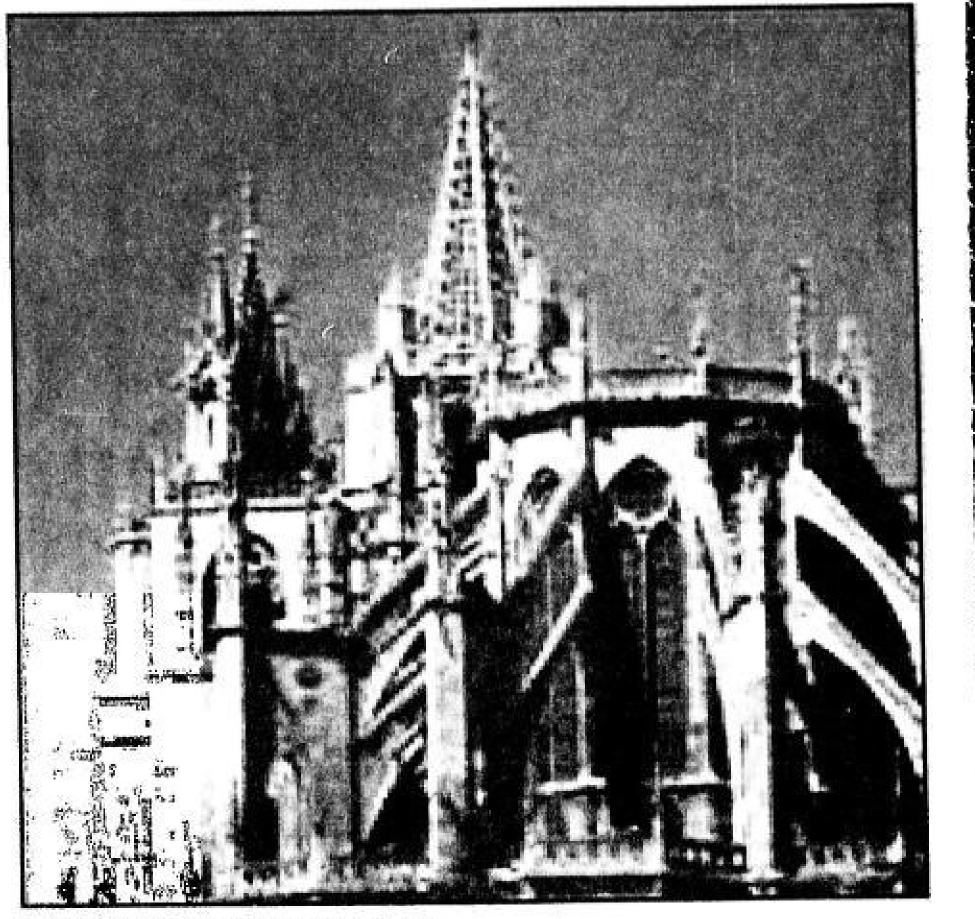
We were told that piles of letters and requests for healing and other intentions were brought to Lucia to be included in her prayers or for her just to touch. This is a shining example of the power of faith. Your faith has made you well, so says Christ to those he gives health of body or soul, in Blessed Guerric's reflections.

On our drive to the Spanish-French border, we saw lush greenery and sheep grazing in the pastures, scenes that were calming and relaxing. There was singing along the way by our companions from different places, ages 30-84. All were filled with faith and compassion. They willingly helped my parents and other senior members when needed.

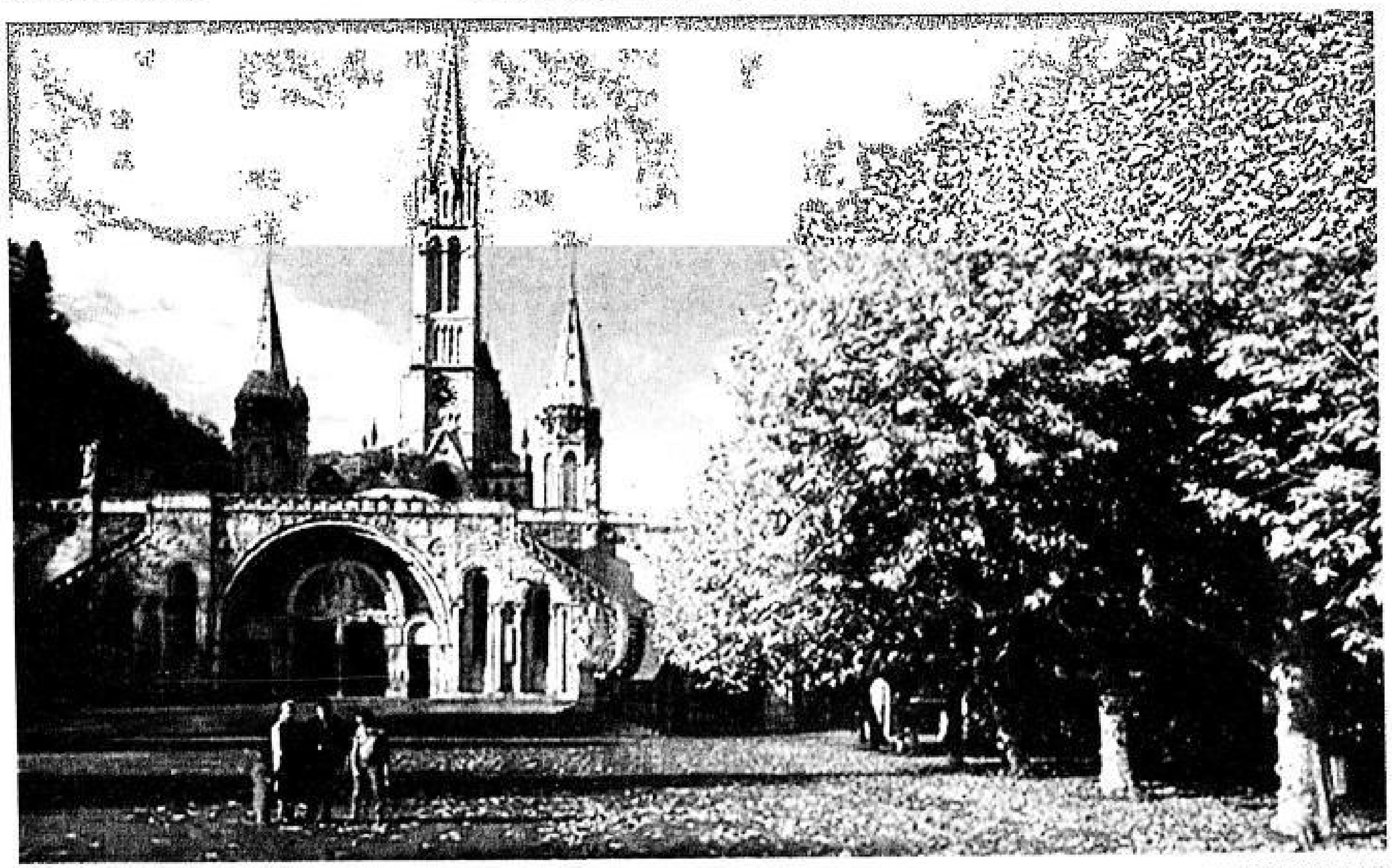
We also visited the monastery in Tolosa where St. Ignatius de Loyola was born.



OUR LADY of Fatima appeared to three children in Portugal in 1917.



FLYING buttresses at Leon Cathedral



THE SANCTUARY of Our Lady of Lourdes

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Lourdes, France

Lourdes is one of the most visited sites worldwide. In the evening, the group joined the candlelight procession. A steady stream of people converged in the underground chapel where benediction for the sick was held.

Lourdes is meant to be experienced. Describing it through words falls short of the immense goodwill generated. The staff reportedly number in the hundreds while volunteers helping out are in the thousands.

A trip to Lourdes is not complete without visiting the grotto. The lame who had been miraculously cured hung their crutches near the grotto.

Another must-see site is the miraculous bath. My co-pilgrims reported that they felt lighter and refreshed after a dip.

We embarked on a walking tour of sanctuaries, including the local mill and the Body Mill. This was where Our Lady of Fatima appeared to Saint Bernadette.

We attended a private Mass celebrated at the crypt of the Basilica.

St. Bernadette had a rosary with six decades of beads instead of the usual five, according to our guide. When asked why, our guide said no official reason was given.

We all agreed that the opportunity to visit these places is a reaffirmation of faith and that walking through these solemn, religious and history-filled places is one of life's rare and pleasant miracles.

My father has had three transient ischemic attacks and multiple cerebral strokes that led to his having an unsteady gait, diminished strength and sensation. So we brought along a walker for him to use. Our Spanish-speaking driver christened my dad's walker, the *taca taca* and it, in fact, became a marker during this whole pilgrimage.

Doubts surfaced if my dad could participate in the long walks. But being a man with deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, he was so determined to finish the pilgrimage that all doubts in our minds on whether he could endure all the walking throughout the journey were erased.

During the trip I had to assist my Mom and Dad, who both had some difficulty walking. Sometimes, my Dad would lose his balance from stepping on the back of one shoe. I would then carefully straighten the back of his shoes so that he would not trip over them. As I did this I would recall the words of John the Baptist that he wasn't fit to tie the sandal straps of the One who was to come.

It is truly God's blessing and grace that my dad celebrated his 87th birthday in Lourdes, France and Spain, two special places with deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. That my soon-to-be-80 mom and I were traveling together with him was providential.

Zaragoza-Montserrat-Toledo-Barcelona in Spain

Our Lady of the Pillar, one of the world's largest Marian shrines, can be found in Zaragoza, Spain. She is the patroness of all Hispanic nations.

This was a site Our Lady visited before her Assumption, according to our information guide. When St. James was evangelizing Spain, she was said to have appeared on a pillar. The pillar as it has been conserved is said to emit a special fragrance.

In Montserrat, we made our way to the Benedictine Shrine of the Cherished Black Madonna, said to have been carved by the evangelist Saint Luke.

We found exquisite handmade jewelry in Toledo. It's anyone's guess if the expression "Holy Toledo" by Robin, Batman's ward, has some connection to this place.

Next was a visit to Barcelona, the site of the 1992 Olympics where we passed by the athletes' living quarters.

We went to two places in Barcelona: the Antonio Gaudi Parc Guell and Church of the Holy Family.

The Parc was meant to showcase Gaudi's ideas on town planning. But Gaudi died before its completion, so what was available was a parking entrance, two houses, a covered walkway and a long seat. The restoration of these structures was limited since Gaudi did not leave any plans. However, he was able to do the crypt and the Nativity facade.

Madrid

We had a morning flight to Madrid where the group visited the Prado Museum which holds many cultural treasures. Then, we proceeded to Avila where we visited the quarters of Saint Teresa.

An interesting story was told that while she was praying, a man had asked her who she was. She said: "I am Teresa of Avila." Then she asked the same question to the stranger and he replied: "I am Jesus of Teresa."

Be it through a pillar, grotto, relic or even the course of our daily routines, Our Lady and Our Lord continue to invite us and call out to us: "Be it done unto you according to your faith."

TRAVEL BRIEFS

60 years of memory

WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE BY VISITing Northwest Airlines' 60th Anniversary website. View flight attendant uniforms over the past 60 years and get an overview of the airline's history in "Bridging the Pacific." Northwest was the first airline to link North America to Asia-Pacific, with its maiden flight on July 15, 1947, via the Great Circle Route to Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai and Manila. Since then, Northwest has become one of the world's best airlines, continuously providing high levels of service between North America and Asia-Pacific. Enjoy a short anniversary video filled with interesting footage throughout 60 years of Northwest history. You can also play the fun "Spin the Wheel 60! Game" for a chance to win great prizes. Register for the Fly Free Faster 2007 promotion for a chance to earn and win up to 25,000 bonus miles.

Another record year

Singapore's tourism industry hit record highs from January to June, with some S$6.4 billion in tourism receipts and 4.9 million visitors. The hotel sector also surpassed figures in the first half of 2006. Lim Neo Chian, chief executive and deputy chair of the Singapore Tourism Board, said the first half of 2007 showed a 9-percent growth in tourism receipts and a 5.2-percent increase in visitor arrivals. Visitor arrivals from the Philippines were among those that registered strong double-digit growth over the previous year.

Redefining business travel

Etihad Airways' Pearl Zone (business class) redefines business travel with its flat-bed seats designed for optimum comfort. The seats can be reclined 180• into a fully flat, 6-ft, 1-in bed. Etihad is the only airline offering flat-bed seats from and to Manila. The Pearl Zone seats are available across Etihad's fleet of Airbus and Boeing aircraft. The seats are equipped with individual lighting, personal reading lamp and built-in massage facility. The airline just won the World Travel Award for being the world's leading flat-bed seat during the 2006 annual ceremony in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Etihad has nonstop flights to and from Manila Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

European pilgrimage

Author Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre is organizing a pilgrimage to some religious sites in Europe including Fatima, Portugal; Church of St. Stephen in Santarem, Portugal; tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, St. Theresa of Avila, tours of City of Madrid and Valencia, Montserrat, Barcelona and Zaragoza in Spain; Lourdes, France; then Nice, Genoa, Pisa and Assisi, Italy. The journey ends in Rome, Italy where the group will have an audience with Pope Benedict XVI at St. Peter's Square. Fr. Gerry Tapiador is pilgrimage chaplain. Call 8154938 or 8156925; e-mail chitdelatorre@yahoo.com.

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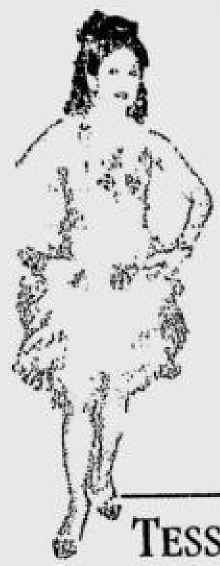
AYALA Museum deputy director Petty Benitez and photographer Pancho Escaler

EXCELLENT golfer/photographer Jojo Guingona with wife Pin and cute kids Ina, Pablo and Pico

CAMERA Club of the
Philippines members

Sweet and grand milestones

Reaching 80 is a wonderful achievement. Sharing that distinction are the Camera Club and the King of Pinoy comedy, Dolphy


TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

LIFE'S MILESTONES MAKE for unforgettable treasures, don't they? Whether it's small and personal, like our first paycheck, or as momentous as a golden wedding anniversary, a milestone provides precious memories that make life sweet and grand.

When the milestone is monumental, such as the 80th anniversary of the Camera Club of the Philippines, the celebration must be explosive and vividly displayed in brilliant colors. Being the oldest camera club in Asia, this club has seen and embraced photography's transformation from film to digital.

The Camera Club celebrated

SWEET/ E2

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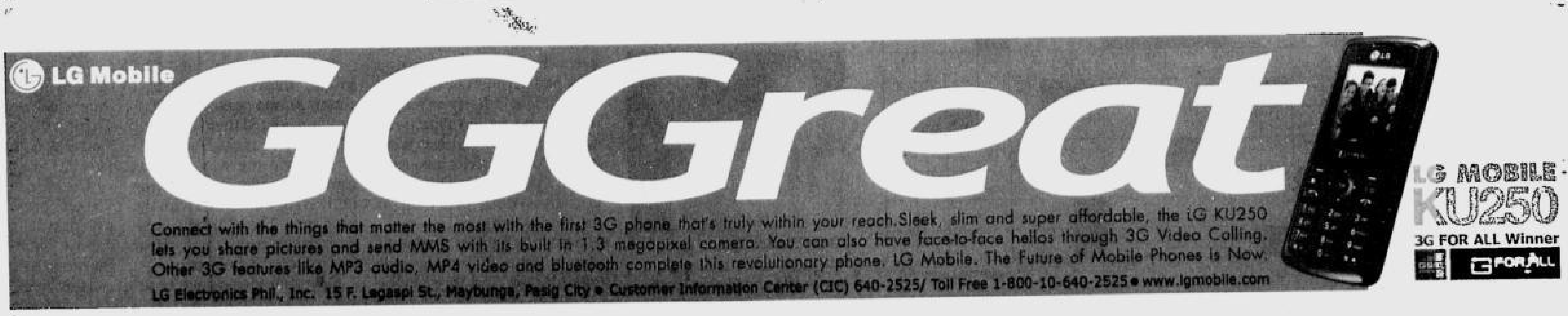

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SENIOR members Mon Abad, Felice Sta. Maria and Bobby Paterno

EXPERT photographers Jun Miranda, James Espiritu, Louie Abiva, Manny Espiritu, Quincy Castillo, Raymond Sto. Domingo and Ernie Fajardo

CAMERA Club past president Tony Lilles and wife Marlyn

HANDSOME couple Cecile and Robert Lilles

CAMERA Club president Leo Riingen and Philips CEO Rico Gonzales

PREVIEW editor Pauline Suaco Juan, Rem Zamora and Annie Ringor

Sweet and grand milestones

From page E1

with an electronic tour de force, an exhibit of more than 300 photographs by its expert members.

Titled "Elements," the audio-visual show runs on 10 top-of-the-line Philips LCD monitors and depicts air, earth, fire and water in various contexts, integrating awesome photos in amazing artistic renditions.

The show is on view at the Ayala Museum but will be exhibit afterwards in various SM Supermalls in the city.

The Club believes that art is for everyone and they want to reach as many people as possible. Fine art truly transcends the humdrum of business. What else can put Camera Club stalwart **Jaime Zobel de Ayala's** photographic installations into a competitor's mall?

Camera Club president **Leo Riingen** explained that the exhibit demonstrates the pervasiveness of digital media in photography as shown in a digital medium like the LCD TV. He warmly thanked the very generous support of Philips for the monitors and the necessary funding. He also acknowledged Canon and SM Malls for helping out with the anniversary events.

I use a small, purse-size, Swarovski-encrusted Canon digital camera for the photos in this column. It made me nervous to whip it out in the presence of these photography legends, each with their own gigantic, foot-long lenses. Well, at least I can say that my little camera gets more pictures into the newspaper that the average mega-wide camera.

Dolphy, Urban Spa, Nuvo Bar

Eighty is a wonderful milestone. Sharing the number with the Camera Club is the King of Pinoy comedy, **Dolphy**, who also recently marked that many years of blissful existence. My heartfelt greetings to this icon, who has made generations of Pinoys appreciate the value of humor.

Five, on the other hand, is not quite as great, but is usually the first important milestone for any business to achieve. By coincidence, both Urban Spa at Shangri-La Mall and Nuvo Bar in Greenbelt turn 5 this year.

Nuvo celebrated their fifth anniversary with a big blast, a Moët & Chandon champagne dinner hosted by eternal party king **Louie Ysmael**. Between the sumptuous cuisine and overflowing champagne, the party continued until the last party people finally left just before sunrise. Partygoers probably headed straight to Urban Spa for much needed massages!

YOUNG designer Mich Araullo at Urban Bazaar

NEW member Kevin Tan and constant date Vanessa Velasco

SEATTLE'S Best owner Bern Sy, Remy and Bien Bautista

Party ladies **Cacay Moras** and **Liza Tan** made sure I had my own bubbly, just as I arrived from the Swatch Party of Gift Gate queen **Virgie Ramos**. My timing was perfect as PR giant **Joji Dingcong** and I enjoyed our flutes of bubbly with matching fireworks!

Tatler

Five is good, but six is better. The Philippine Tatler, the nation's premier society magazine, celebrates that figure next month with a grand ball on Sept. 29 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The annual Tatler Ball has become the most-awaited event, where elegance, refinement and charity are shared among the elite guests. It is also the only time Dennis, my husband, brings out his same old tuxedo. Men's fashion is truly medieval compared to women's.

Five and six make eleven, which reminds me of a friend with 11 toes, **Ichay Bulaong**. Her extra toe must give her extra energy because aside from leading Arc Worldwide, her top-notch agency, she finds the time for her personal advocacy—reducing our consumption of plastic bags by producing reusable cloth bags.

Ichay has her bags produced as a livelihood project by the housewives of the small community of San Teodoro in Mabini, Batangas. E-mail her at ibulaong @gmail.com.

Homecomings

Milestones that are school-related are the most fun. Our Assumption HS '81 Homecoming brought back fond memories of our high-school days and brought back ties with classmates from all over the world.

This year, Assumption HS '82 has been busy with preparations and practices for their Velada in October. Please support them by advertising in their full-color Memory Book. Call **Rosanna Henares** at 0917-8464987.

Another homecoming this year is the Colegio San Agustin Alumni Homecoming on Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at the CSA Gymnasium, Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Organizing committee head **George Salud** told me that they have lined up fun entertainment for all Agustinians. Nothing beats friendships made and sealed during high school.

NUVO friends Jun Poblador, Marta Lovina, Anna Angara
Montano and Anton Mendoza

The rain can dampen anyone's parade but I say, shop the misery away. This weekend, the Urban Bazaar at the Rockwell Tent has fun and funky fashions from cool, young designers. Up-and-coming designer **Mich Araullo**, a junior Fashion Design and Merchandising major at De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, will be selling her fashionable designs perfect for 20somethings.

Rain boots are the hottest rain fashion now and they will be available at the Urban Bazaar. Plueys, a brand of Wellington boots (visit www.pluey.com) from the United Kingdom, is now available and just in time for the rainy season. Head to the bazaar and be one of the first to have cool-colored rain gear.

In closing, I'd like to invite everyone to the mini-concert of visiting Toronto-based rock band, Robert Desmond Band, at Wasabi Restaurant on Aug. 22, 8 p.m.

The band's melodic tunes with catchy verses are simply original, with an atmospheric trance provided by a mix of heavy guitars. Now what must that sound like? Call 8404223.

For my own personal milestone, I shall con
ly predict that I will s
the first elimination
of "Celebrity Duets,"
was aired last night.
this column's de
Speaking of which, it
for me to get back to s
in the rain!

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PATRICK Uy

SINGE
photog
Francis
Magalo

NUVO owner Louie Ysr
with Philip and Ching C

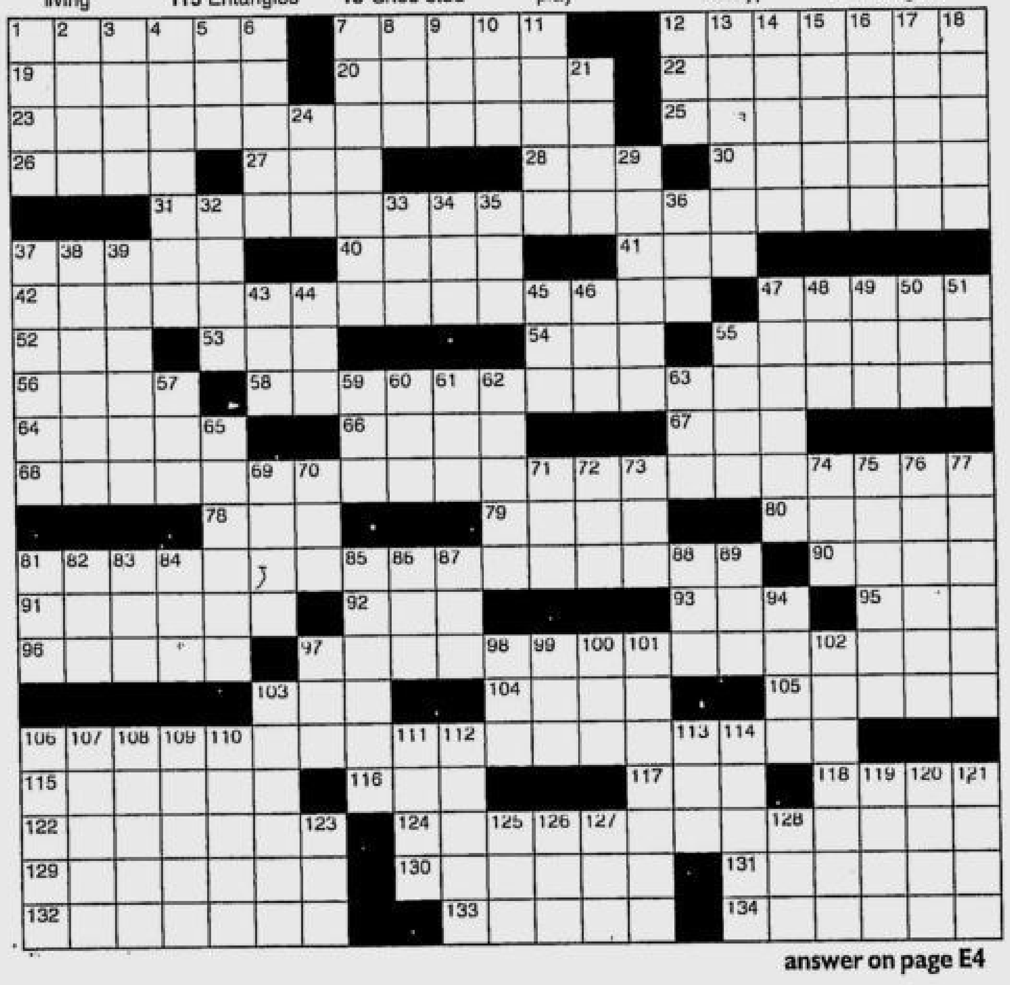
ROBERT Desmond Ban
performs at Wasabi.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo SHALL BE FIRST

ACROSS
1 Roof of the mouth
7 Hawaiian "hi"
12 Dissolved out by percolation
19 Mystery's Christie
20 Crullers' cousins
22 Slant
23 Insignificant rocker?
25 Sao — (island city in Brazil)
26 Tennis player Arthur
27 "— was saying ..."
28 AOL is one
30 Exam marker
31 Fully grown actor?
37 Applauds
40 Boxers Muhammad and Laila
41 "... — penny earned"
42 Injured actor?
47 Song starter
52 "Lord, is —?" (Biblical question)
53 JFK datum
54 — out a living
55 Playing gigs city-to-city
56 Sorority letters
58 Curt comedian?
64 Writer of many fables
66 Ending for peek or bug
67 Runner Sebastian
68 Annoyed singer?
78 Exist
79 Periods in history
80 Implied but not stated
81 Diminutive comedian?
90 Sicilian erupter
91 Not out of the house
92 "O Sole —" (hit Italian tune)
93 Gambling parlor abbr.
95 Singer DiFranco
96 Nest noises
97 Cowardly film director?
103 Outrage
104 Spur
105 Spouted jugs
106 Pale architect?
115 Entangles
116 E-mail chuckle
117 Livy's "I love"
118 Bamboozle
122 Bleep, as bad words
124 Ill-humored actor?
129 Brewed
130 Spotted from afar
131 2001 Sean Penn film
132 People throwing
133 Cooks in a Crock-pot
134 Like smooth peanut butter

DOWN
1 Dad
2 Quite a while
3 Wood strip
4 Try
5 Biblical "your"
6 Bother badly
7 Navy bigwig
8 Cut (off)
9 United
10 Grass house
11 Loft
12 Ullmann or Tyler
13 Riddle
14 Ghana's largest city
15 Shoe stud
16 Believer in Vishnu
17 Go into
18 John of plow fame
21 Pt. of GPS
24 Sch. in Columbus
29 French couturier Paul
32 Life — know it
33 Whitney or Wallach
34 By the agency of
35 Suffix with 16-Down
36 Trio after Q
37 Former French president Jacques
38 Martin — King Jr.
39 Melodic
43 "— all true!"
44 — -di-dah
45 "Isn't — bit like you and me?" (Beatles lyric)
46 Kiev loc.
47 Bee, flea, or fly
48 Ultimate degree
49 Besides that
50 Karel Capek play
51 Meal morsel
55 — about (close to)
57 Tar's "Help!"
59 Boat mover
60 Ballpark stat
61 Set- — (melees)
62 Inn
63 Cola cubes
65 Hymns
69 Plains Indian
70 That woman
71 "Either he goes — go!"
72 Sajak of TV
73 FDR follower
74 "Norma —" (Field film)
75 Musical interval
76 Preacher's target
77 Smudges
81 Indy 500 unit
82 Suffix with suburban
83 Basic article
84 Crest
85 #1 Jennifer Lopez hit of 2001
86 U.S. spy org.
87 — lane (carpooler's access, briefly)
88 — Angeles
89 And others: Abbr.
94 Writer Harte
97 TV screen
98 Psyche part
99 Neither hide — hair
100 Gum glob
101 "10" director Blake
102 "Way cool!"
103 One publishing
106 Seize (from)
107 "It — Be You"
108 Climbing plants
109 Heads, in France
110 Wed on the fly
111 Alaskan city
112 Dental thread
113 Med. plan
114 Classic column style
119 — Nostra
120 Abel's father
121 "Gracious!"
123 NFL goals
125 Choose (to)
126 Expire
127 Evergreen shrub
128 Disfigure



answer on page E4

ALICE Paquibot, in charge of the Zonta II daycare center in Casuntingan, and Beth Reyes, the program's emcee

HAPPY birthday Zonta Cebu II, sing Odette Jereza and Marilou Cañizares.

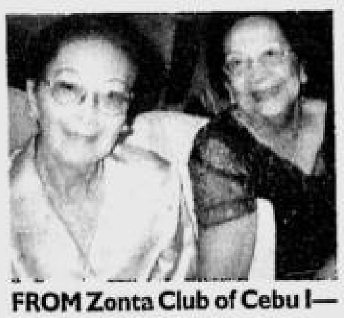
EVENT chairperson Elena Young and Mariter Klepp

GRACE Colmenares wi
Zonta Cebu II presiden

CEBU CEBU
Jaime Picornell

Zontans tone down silver jubilee

MARGOT Larrañaga and Nancy Velez


FROM Zonta Club of Cebu I—former presidents Sugga Yuviengco and Gloria Escaño

THE ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II celebrated its 25th anniversary at the ballroom of City Sports Club.

It was supposed to be a grand celebration but officers and members agreed to tone it down for a very good reason.

One of the club's daycare centers burned down during a recent fire in Tipolo, Mandaue City. It needs immediate aid, if not outright reconstruction.

But the Zontans are a lively bunch. They all came to the event in whatever silvery togs they had in their wardrobes.

President Betty Young, with David by her side, welcomed everyone. Guests were led by Zonta district governor Virma Vergel de Dios and Primitiva Perez, president of the Manila chapter.

Cebu dignitaries included Mayor Tommy Osmeña, with wife Margot; and Vice Mayor Michael Rama.

The dance group from the University of Southern Philippines started the evening's program, hosted by Beth Reyes, by performing the invocation and singing the national anthem.

Elena Chiongbian Young, event chair, gave the welcome remarks. The buffet dinner featured a special carving station for Cebu lechon.

Mellow tunes

Roland Suarez and his group dished out mellow tunes. At one point, Vice Mayor Rama joined them and sang "The Way You Look Tonight."

"We love the way we look tonight," said the glowing Beth as she continued with the program. The Zontans took their cue to recite their prayer and to sing the club song.

Governor Virma gave an inspirational talk.
everyone that the
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Irene Uy as a ne
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The video "Zont
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PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Kalinga school needs help

AURORA LAZO TOLD ME THE SAINT Teresita's School (STS) in Lubuagan, Kalinga had been struggling the past 10 years. The CICM had handed the school over to the vicariate of Kalinga.

Established in 1925 as a mission school by the CICM Missionaries, the school has produced hundreds of professionals, priests and religious.

Most of the students come from poor families who cannot afford to pay the tuition fees. The government, through the Education School Contracting (ESC), gives P4,000 per student.

Alumni and benefactors had contributed over a million pesos since 2005 but the money went to the salaries of teachers and staff development.

Saving the school

The most alarming problem of the school is the plan of the Mission Council to close the elementary department to reduce the school's debts.

Students of Saint Teresita's School usually belong to low-income families whose livelihood is production of rice and vegetables.

Parents employed by the local government, district hospital, local court, post office, etc. are the ones who can afford to pay the fees. But they are just a few.

Virginia Godoy, administrator, said Bishop Prudencio Andaya was against the closure. A mega alumni homecoming for all vicariate schools of Tabuk is being planned this December.

Alumni are being invited and asked to help raise money. It will be a grand affair. STS Lubuagan is waiting for a visit from her alumni. Benefactors, and former teachers and professors are all invited.

The present administration, faculty, students and parents have a sense of mission. We share our bishop's goal to keep the STSL Grade School alive and going despite the recommendation of the Mission Council.

Miss Godoy said they had three more years to operate, but they should not add to the debts. She appeals to readers who want to save the school. Please deposit your contribution to the Philippine National Bank, Tabuk Branch, Account Name STSL Elementary, Savings Account No. 6295058631. Please text 0919-6779826 for more details.

Breastfeeding month

Devotees of Our Lady of La Leche joined the celebration of World Breastfeeding Month. Remedios Ticzon-Gonzales, president of the group, donated a small statue of Our Lady of La Leche to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

An exhibit of images of the Virgin, including paintings, under this title will be displayed at the Harrison Plaza Chapel on Oct. 11, feast day of the Virgin. Those who want to participate can text Baby Gonzales at 0917-8113294 or call 531-3063.

Fiesta

The people of Camalaniugan, Cagayan Valley marked a few days ago the fiesta of San Jacinto de Polonia, also called St. Hyacinth of Poland. As part of the festivities, the Camalaniugan Circle, Inc. based in California will have a medical, surgical and dental mission Aug. 20-22 in the town. It will be held in cooperation with health workers of the local government and the Matilde A. Olivar District Hospital.

I visited the church in 1993 and was impressed by its centuries-old bell—the biggest in the Far East.

St. Hyacinth is venerated as the apostle of Poland. He is also known as St. Jacek. He was born in Poland in 1185 and joined the Dominican Order in 1219. He died on the feast of the Assumption in 1257.

He traveled and preached the Catholic faith to people in Poland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia and China. The saint had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and, through her intercession, brought many people back to the Sacraments.

Travel book

Architect-travel writer Benjamin Locsin Layug has written a book on Spanish era-Catholic churches noted for their outstanding architecture.

"A Tourist Guide to Notable Philippine Churches" is published by New Day and available in leading bookstores. Call 928-8046 or e-mail sales&newdaypublishers.com.

Pilgrim image in Rome

Fr. Sanny de Claro and Tony Adriano will bring the pilgrim image of Nuestra Señora de Guia to Rome in October for blessing by the Holy Father.

Later, the image will be brought to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal church on Rue du Bac in Paris for Filipinos there.

Nuestra Señora de Guia is the oldest Marian image in the Philippines. Bringing her to people outside Manila is a way of propagating her devotion, especially among overseas contract workers.

Men involved in the old galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco used to pray to her for a safe voyage. Let's pray for the safe trip of Fr. Sanny and Tony. Cardinal Rosales has given his blessings for the trip.

Let's also pray for Tony Adriano on his birthday on Aug. 24.

Radio show

Tune in at 7-8 p.m. to Radio Veritas for the program "San Expedito, ang Santong Madaling Lapitan" anchored by this author and coanchored by Ofie Poblete.

Fr. Diwane Cacao will give healing on the air. Tune in to 846 AM Band.

New parish priest

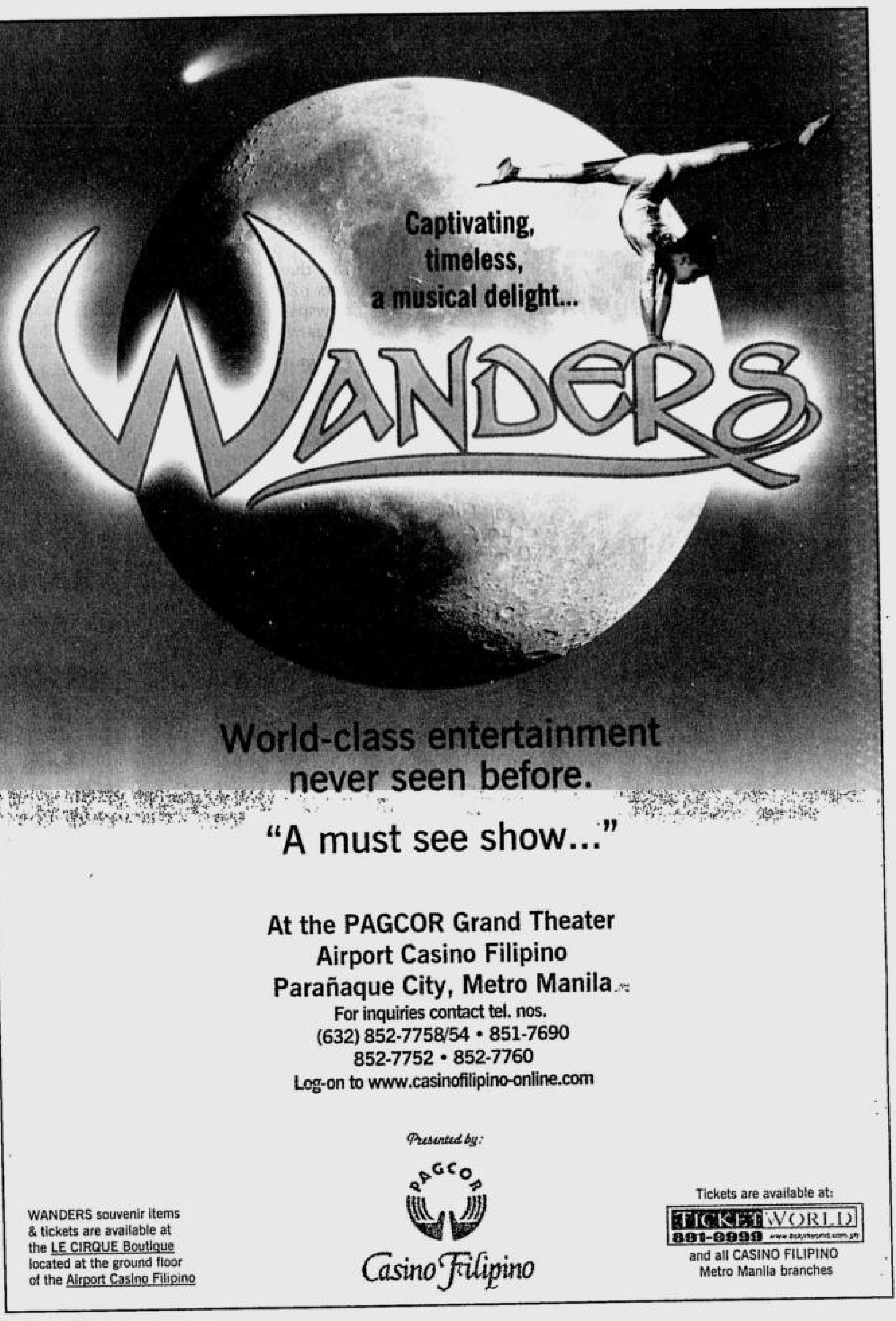
Malolos Bishop Jose Oliveros will install Fr. Willie Lucas as new parish priest of St. Paul Church in Niyugan, Angat, Bulacan on Aug. 26.

STUDENTS of the St. Teresita School in Lubuagan, Kalinga

Paco fiesta

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate at the concelebrated Mass marking the feast of Santo Sepulcro at 7 a.m., Aug. 19, at the San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco. Concelebrants are Msgr. Domingo Cirilos, Fr. Wilfrido Talavera, Fr. Celso Alcantara, Fr. Macario Sortido, Fr. Ariel Jesus Oguan and Fr. Luke Moortgat who will do sign language.

Fiesta chair is Gemma Perez. In charge of Mass sponsorships are Sol Alturas-Yu, Aida Altamirano and Peachy Mallari.



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h David and Betty Young,

VICE Mayor Mike Rama poses with newsgals Flor Ynclino
ated) and Chinggay Utzurrum

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former presidents like Amy Enriquez, Pet Misa, Jessica Avila, Charing Alfaro, Elena Young, Margot Larrañaga, Filna Espina, and Flor Miel in cheering as a huge cake with 25 candles was wheeled in.

A touching testimonial was made by Alice Paquibot who, for the past 25 years, had been the teacher in charge of another Zonta Cebu II daycare center in Casuntingan, also in Mandaue City.

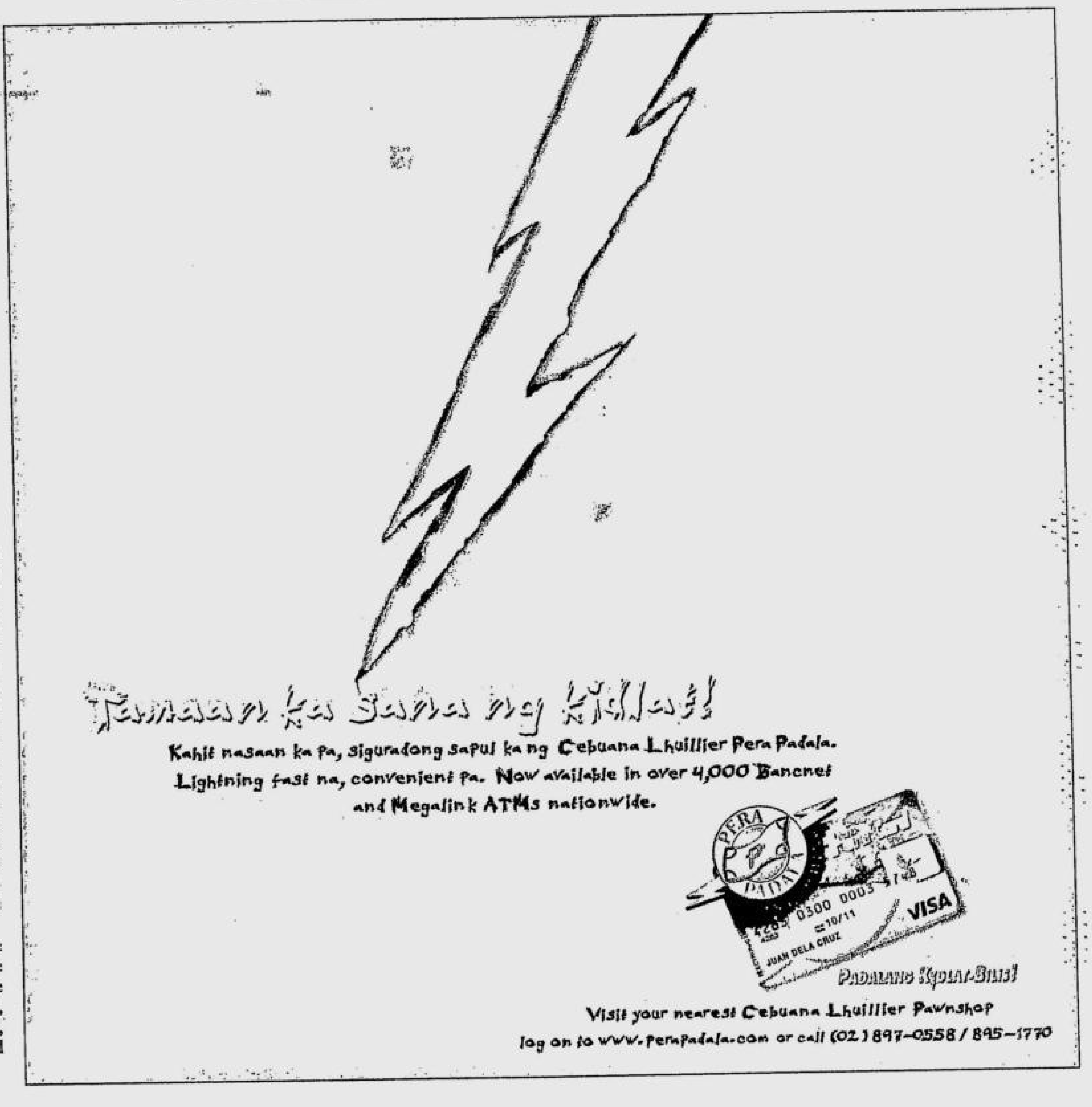
She spoke about how the children she used to care for found jobs abroad and often wrote to her. Those who remained in Cebu were now sending their own children to the daycare center.

Awards were very much in the program. Cited was the Zonta Club of Cebu I, the mother club as they called it. Representing it were past presidents Dr. Sugga Sotto Yuviengco and Gloria L. Escaño.

Singled out for 25 years of active duty from the Zonta Cebu II ranks were Filna, Marilou, Betty, Mildred Simolde, and Lily Ngo Chua who was unable to attend. Ditto former proxy Josie Sala.

By now Roland and his group were playing more bouncy music. When he played a spirited swing number, vice president Jane Young Llaban sprang from her seat. "This is just it," she said glancing at the evening's printed program where the theme of the club's celebration was emblazoned: "Let's swing to the next 25 years!"

She was instantly on the dance floor, followed by the others. For the rest of the night they swung, boogied, rock and rolled, cha-cha-ed, fox-trotted, tangoed, and what-have-you.



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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

AGUSTIN-SAOIT

Herald Agustin, son of **Warlito Agustin**, wed recently **Betty Saoit**, daughter of **Visitacion Saoit**, at Iglesia Filipina Independiente, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte. Reception was held at Fort Ilocandia Resort Casino, Laoag City.

RODRIGUEZ 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Ms **Virgilio Braganza Rodriguez** of Poblacion, Mabini, Pangasinan, celebrated recently their golden wedding anniversary at the Sto. Niño Parish Church of Mabini, Pangasinan. Reception was held at the parish gardens.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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AGATHA DONUTS INCLINE
PETTYTOMPETTY VICENTE
ASHE ASI ISP GRADER
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ITI ETA EKE ONTOUR
RHOS SHORTMARTINSHORT
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RAVELS LOL AMO SCAM
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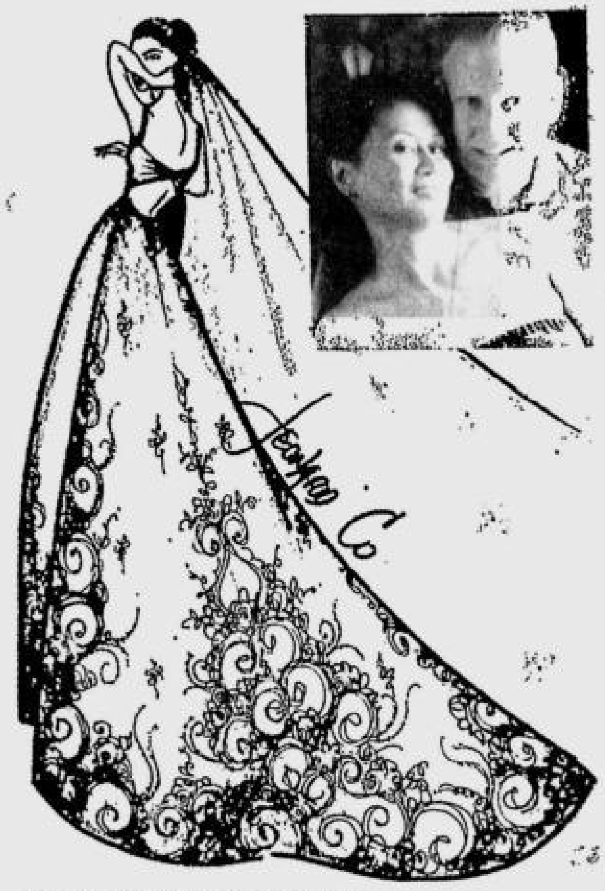
TOSSERS STEWS CREAMY

NABUA-BAYLON

Cocoy Nabua, son of **Ernesto Nabua** and **Luisa Lagman**, will marry **Pops Baylon**, daughter of **Catherine Fidel**, in Gazebo Royale, Visayas Avenue, QC. Photography will be by Smartshotstudio.

ONG-CHU

Cary Ong, son of Mr. and Ms **Ong Ching Siak**, wed recently **Ma. Aimee Christie Chu**, daughter of **Eduardo** and **Arlene Huang Chu**, at Sta. Maria Church, Gen. Blanco Street, Iloilo City. Reception was held at Amigo Terrace Hotel. The bride wore a beaded satin gown by **BingBing Sanchez**.



MAYNARD-GOLLAYAN

Brian Maynard, son of **Bill Maynard** and **Karen Lawrence**, wed recently **Jocelyn Gollayan**, daughter of **Galo** and **Coleta Gollayan**. The bride wore an all-white duchess sateen draped bustier and a detachable train fully beaded with ferns and floral crystals by **Leonard Co.**

GONZALES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Dr. **Eriz** and **Dina Gonzales** celebrated their silver wedding anniversary recently at Celebrity Sports Plaza, Capitol Hills, QC. Fr. **Edwin Mertola** officiated at the wedding ceremony.

ESTRELLA-LOPEZ

Victor Lim Estrella, son of **Felino** and **Teresita Estrella**, will wed **Mary Annette de Guzman Lopez**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Zelma Lopez**, on Oct. 3 at the Coral Ballroom of Manila Pavilion Hotel. The bride will wear gowns by **Allan Uy** and **Bang Pineda**.

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6. Filinvest Branch : Las Pinas East National High school
7. Pasig Branch : Santolan High school
8. Valenzuela Branch : Dalandanan High school

Promo period is from August 15 to November 30, 2007. See flyers for complete details.

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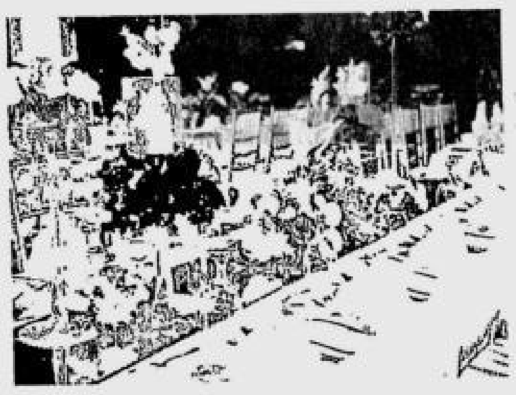

Showcase of wedding ideas

THE WEDDING EXPO PHILIPPINES (WEP) makes it convenient for people who are getting married to get as many ideas as they can to help them plan their big event.

The expo presents them with the various options available all in one place.

More than 250 of the country's topnotch wedding suppliers, service providers and event organizers are participating in the WEP to be held Sept. 1-2, at the Philippine International Convention Center Forum, Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex.

WEP is considered the country's biggest and most prestigious wedding fair.

Guests will delight in the creativity exhibited by the participants in the execution of their display areas. Exhibitors include Fernbrook Gardens and five-star hotels as wedding venues. Offsite caterers include Center Table Catering, Josiah's Catering and Juan Carlo the Caterer.

Admission to Wedding Expo Philippines September 2007 is free to those who will pre-register through www.themesnmotifs.com. The event is organized by Themes & Motifs—The Special Events Co., tel. 413-7892, which has a showroom in Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2007

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

☐ **Visiting Batman** Only In Hollywood /G1

☐ **How to fight, then reconcile, in public** Rushes /G4

VINA Morales' four degrees of radiant. After all, she just won a big regional competition. But she doesn't think she'll do it again, ever.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

YOUR CONNECTION TO

+BETTER PEOPLE,

BETTER JOBS

Giddy over being Ikon for Asean

By Pocholo Concepcion
Photos by Romy Homillada

VINA MORALES ARRIVES IN FULL MAKE-up, hair neatly in place and casually dressed in a white shirt that gives her an aura of calmness.

A few hours ago, she was in a state of panic. Heavy rains had forced the creek beside her rented house in San Juan to overflow, flooding the basement and damaging her DVD player, CD collection and other possessions.

"You should have seen me," Vina gushes. "*Di ko malaman ang gagawin, ang bilis ng akyat ng tubig. Akalain mo, binubuhat ko yung malaking TV. Naisip ko tuloy, sobra-sobra na yatang* blessing *'to, bumabaha!*"

The blessing she's referring to is her triumph in the Asean Ikon music competition held recently in Kuala Lumpur. The contest pitted Vina against the best singers from Indonesia and Malaysia, for a shot at fame in the whole region.

Malaysian producer

For the feat, Vina was rewarded with $25,000 and a crack at recording albums and doing live performances in Asean member countries.

She can't hide the joy in her heart. She breaks the news that a Malaysian producer has expressed interest to sign her to a record deal, along with Kjwan, the other Ikon big winner (band division). "We'll be recording soon," Vina says, "maybe after I finish an eight-city concert tour in the US."

Music is a passion that has made Vina look younger than her 31 years. She was only eight when talent scouts from Viva Records spotted her in a singing contest in Cebu (which she won).

Vic Del Rosario quickly signed her up. His wife Mina Aragon took an active part in grooming the talented tyke for the major league. Sharon Magdayao was renamed Vina Morales, adapted from Mina's own daughter, Vina Vanessa.

"That contest in Cebu was my first time ever to compete. Ikon was only my second and probably the last time," Vina reveals. "I guess I can't take the pressure."

Stage presence

What was her winning edge in Ikon?

"Stage presence, I think," Vina surmises. "It also probably helped that I sang in a very clear manner. I thank Eugene Villaluz for that because he told me, '*Kailangan buo ang boses mo, may* power, *huwag mo ilalayo ang* mic *para* clear *ang tunog*.' Plus of course my

GIDDY/ F2

HER winning edge? "Stage presence"

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12 BLADES OF GLORY

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3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
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6 SURF'S UP
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 A LOVE STORY
9 OUIJA
10 HARRY POTTER 5
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 SINKING OF JAPAN/ CARTOON NETWORK

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3 A LOVE STORY
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3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

movietime Coming Soon

Travolta Pfeiffer Bynes Efron Marsden Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Snow Walken Kelley Jimmy Blonsky

Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and bigger heart, loves dancing and dreams of appearing in "The Corny Collins Show", Baltimore's hippest dance party on TV.

Tracy's determination flourished, despite her plus-size figure, much to the chagrin of the show's reigning princess, Amber Von Tussle, and her scheming mother, Velma, who runs the TV station. What makes Amber hate her more is that her sweetheart, Link Larkin, seems to be smitten with Tracy's charm as well.

Now, the dance party turns into a fight between Tracy and Amber, as they compete for the much-coveted "Miss Teenage Hairspray" crown.

REGULAR SHOWING STARTS AUGUST 22

Distributed by PIONEER FILMS

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RISE
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 A LOVE STORY
7 OUIJA
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 OUIJA/ CARTOON NETWORK
4 BLADES OF GLORY
5 A LOVE STORY
6 LICENSE TO WED/ A LOVE STORY

SM CITY MARILAO (044)0332013-17
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 BLADES OF GLORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 OUIJA/ CARTOON NETWORK
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 A LOVE STORY
5 LICENSE TO WED/ A LOVE STORY
6 A LOVE STORY

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 SINKING OF JAPAN
2 BLADES OF GLORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 A LOVE STORY
2 FRACTURE/ A LOVE STORY
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 BLADES OF GLORY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 SURF'S UP
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 A LOVE STORY

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BLADES OF GLORY
5 A LOVE STORY/ CARTOON NETWORK
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 A LOVE STORY/ CARTOON NETWORK
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 RESERVED
8 RATATOUILLE

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 SURF'S UP
5 A LOVE STORY
6 BLADES OF GLORY
7 A LOVE STORY/ CARTOON NETWORK
8 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM • THX
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 A LOVE STORY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 MOONRISE FILM FESTIVAL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

5 VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
12:00

6 VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
12:00

7 RISE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

8 RATATOUILLE
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

9 SURF'S UP
11:25 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 RUSH HOUR 3
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

MOONRISE
an environmental documentary
FILMFEST 2007
This is our country.
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AUGUST 15 to 21
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

ERMITA

1 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 OUIJA
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 SURF'S UP
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 RUSH HOUR 3
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00

5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

6 RISE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 MORENO
1:00 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

METRO EAST

1 SURF'S UP
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

2 A LOVE STORY
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 A LOVE STORY
10:20 1:00 3:40 6:20

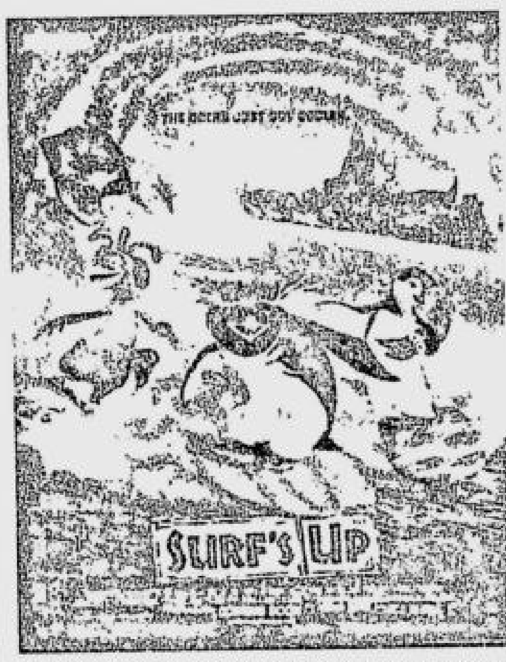
4 RISE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

6 RATATOUILLE
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
11:00 1:25 3:50 6:20 9:00

8 OUIJA
12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10



SURF'S UP ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 18 (3:00PM) – "SURF'S UP" Mall Show
*Dance Number
*Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
*Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
*Games and Raffle
Robinsons Metro East Mall Activity Area

AUGUST 19 (3:00 – 6:00PM) – 'Surf's Up' Meet & Greet Cody
Robinsons Pioneer Cinema Lobby

AUGUST 26 (11:00AM) – "SURF'S UP" Mall Show
*Dance Number
*Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
*Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
*Games and Raffle
Robinsons Bacolod Mall Activity Area

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NOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RISE
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 OUIJA

PIONEER

1 A LOVE STORY
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

2 SURF'S UP
12:25 2:30 4:35 6:40 8:40

3 RUSH HOUR 3
4:20 6:30

4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

(043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING of JAPAN
4 CASA

DASMARINAS

(046) 416-4332

1 SURF'S UP
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

IMUS

Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3

ANGELES

(045) 892-2340

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STROY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 SURF'S UP

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED

STARMILLS

1 CASA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 SURF'S UP

BACOLOD

Ticket Price P70 (034) 441-0459

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP
5 BUG
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

(033) 338-0070

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OSS 117 / A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 CAPE KARMA
6 SURF'S UP

VINA Morales: "I think it was stage presence that made me win in Asean Ikon."

Giddy ove

From page F1

dancing. We were given two nu
skills. I chose a ballad ('Pangako
('Feels So Nice'). Nobody else di
dance, complete with dancers a
phy."

Why "Pangako sa Yo"?

"I consulted my manager (Joji
cal director (Butch Miraflor) for
ing song that I have been identi
in Malaysia have seen the TV soa
adapted as soundtrack. True c
liked it very much."

Big break

Vina is still visibly high from
do a major concert in Malaysi
Asian tour with the other Ik
thought excites me. There's a go
through. This is a very big br
pakawalan 'to."

On the other hand, Vina expr
over the status of her recording
pines.

Perhaps she's not given the o
right kind of songs?

She points out, "Actually, *nag*
English, pop, R&B, etc. I've reco
the early ones went platinum an

sell a lot of albums now, with so many singers and bands offering many choices. Plus, there is piracy to contend with: It's all very sad."

Given a free rein, what kind of album would she like to record?

"Maybe I'll do five ballads and five fast numbers. I need a producer to guide me. Pop and R&B are still the sounds that I like. Also a little house, you know, dance remix material."

Just like Madonna?

"I like her style, but Beyonce is my favorite. Her voice has power and she's a gifted dancer. I also admire Christina Aguilera and JLo, but they don't have the complete package that Beyonce has."

Complete package

Complete package is what Vina thinks will come in handy when she starts trotting her act in other Asean venues. "That's what the judges in Ikon were looking for in the contest," Vina says. "At first my manager and I were worried about the risks, like, what if I lost? That could mean losing face here, I mean I've invested so many years building a career in the Philippines, *tapos matatalo lang ako.* That's why I don't like joining contests anymore. But then again, though we took a chance, I went in prepared."

Being prepared is a disposition that she swears by. She has invested her earnings from show biz in a family corporation which has interests in 30 branches of Ystilo Salon, 10 of which are owned, while the rest are franchises.

Business-wise, she looks up to Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos and Maricel Soriano. "*Magagaling sila humawak ng pera.*"

As for romance, Vina is not in a relationship just now, having broken off with Chinese businessman boyfriend Cedric Lee more than a year ago. But she hints that "*nandiyan pa rin naman siya. Kaya lang maraming* hindrance e, *ang hirap talaga pag* show biz *ka, walang* privacy."

Then again, Vina would rather take things in stride and dream of other things.

"I want to have my own show. I want to act in another film." She catches herself here: "*Naglambing daw ako sa* ABS-CBN."

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r . . .

nbers to show off our
'Sa Yo') and a fast one
that, I mean sing and
d difficult choreogra-

Dingcong) and musi-
hat. It's a very touch-
ied with. And people
p where the song was
hough, the audience

her victory. "I hope to
. maybe a Southeast
on contestants. The
od chance it will push
ak for me. *Ayokong*

sses some frustration
career in the Philip-

pportunity to sing the

va ko na lahat—OPM,
ded nine albums and
l gold. But it's hard to

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GREENHILLS
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Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	10:30 , 1:15 , 4:05 6:55 , 9:45	PG-13
2	RISE	11:50 , 2:05 , 4:20 6:35 , 8:50	R-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
3	SURFS UP	10:45 , 12:40 , 2:35 4:30 , 6:25 , 8:20 10:15	GP
4	RUSH HOUR 3	10:35, 12:35,2:35 4:35 , 6:35 , 8:35 10:35	PG-13
5	THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	11:05 , 1:55 , 4:45 7:35 , 10:30	PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496

MUSIC MUSEUM

August 24 & 25 , 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
September 15 , 2007	Rico J w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Aug. 18, 24, 31, Sept. 7, 21 , 28 ,2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Aug. 15, 22, 30, Sept. 5,12,19,26,2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
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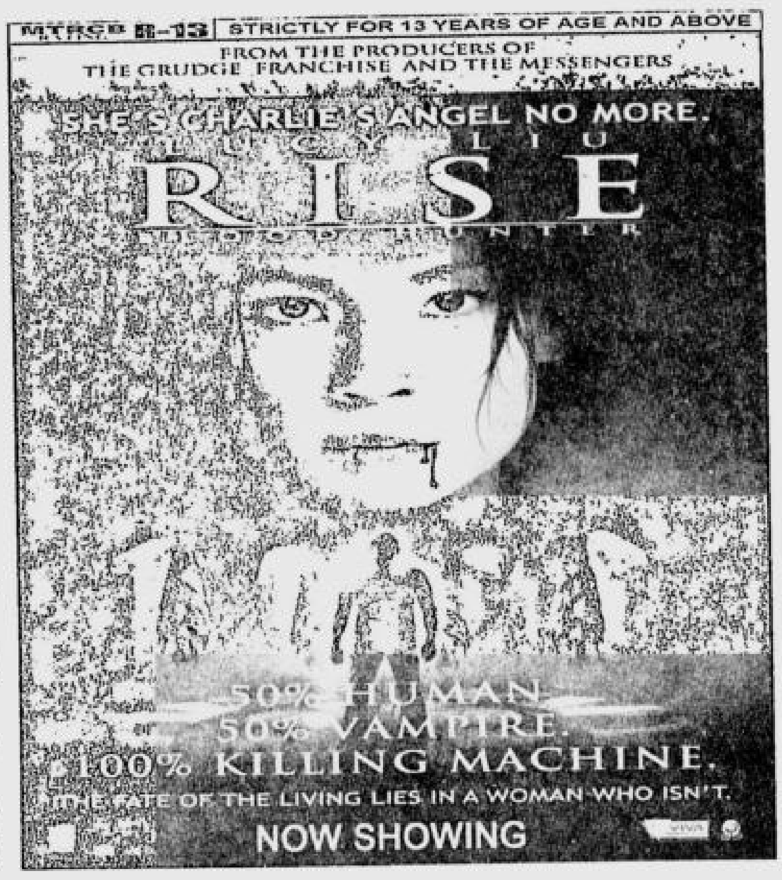

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50% VAMPIRE.
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THE FATE OF THE LIVING LIES IN A WOMAN WHO ISN'T.
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John Travolta Michelle Pfeiffer Amanda Bynes Zac Efron James Marsden and Queen Latifah

HAIRSPRAY

Brittany Snow Christopher Walken Elijah Kelley Allison Janney introducing Nikki Blonsky

OPENS AUG 22

AUG. 21
TUESDAY
7:30PM

ROBINSONS GALLERIA CINEMA 5

MTRCB RATING: GP
GENERAL PATRONAGE

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

GLORIETTA 1	1 RISE	2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	3 RUSH HOUR 3	4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 A LOVE STORY	2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	3 THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE LOOKOUT	5 SURF'S UP	6 RUSH HOUR 3	7 THE SIMPSONS
GREENBELT 1	1 A LOVE STORY	2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX RUSH HOUR 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 RATATOUILLE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	2 A LOVE STORY		
	3 RUSH HOUR 3	4 SURF'S UP	5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	2 RUSH HOUR 3	3 A LOVE STORY	4 SURF'S UP
MARKET! MARKET!	1 A LOVE STORY	2 SURF'S UP		
	3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 RISE	5 RUSH HOUR 3	
TRINOMA	1 A LOVE STORY	2 RATATOUILLE	3 RISE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 RUSH HOUR 3	6 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	7 THX THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	C2 Event August 18, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Shop & Travel at Greenbelt 1 Promo Get a chance to win exciting prizes and a trip for two to Boracay for every P300 worth of purchase at any Greenbelt 1 establishment from July 1 to September 30, 2007
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Mechanical Action August 17 to 19; 11 am, 3 pm & 6 pm at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Uyfang Kiosk August 3 to 30, 2007 at the AFEC Access
MARKET! MARKET!	Veggie Superkids August 18, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Elements Photoconstructed Realities August 16 to 29, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	NU 107: Pocket Concert 07 August 23, 2007 at the Activity Center Luxury Car Exhibits August 24 to 30, 2007 at the Activity Center

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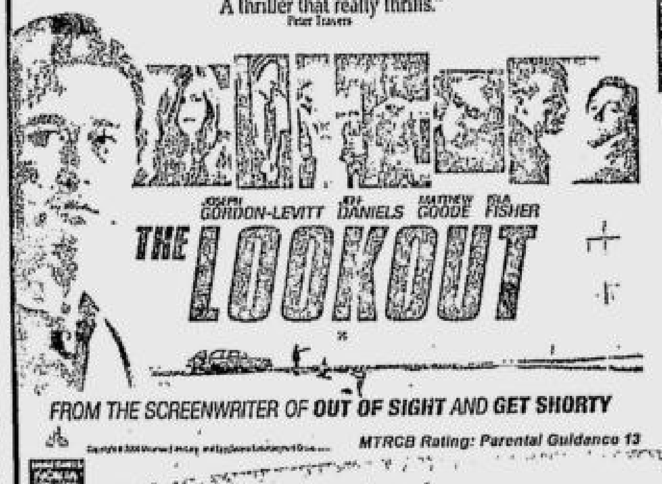
Peter Travers



FROM THE SCREENWRITER OF OUT OF SIGHT AND GET SHORTY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

"A MASTERPIECE. ★★★★ I LOVED THIS MOVIE AN ACCOMPLISHED WORK OF ART."

USA TODAY
"★★★☆! A HAUNTING, ENGROSSING AND INTELLIGENT THRILLER.

Los Angeles Times
"... A REAL PLEASURE TO WATCH...
... A SKILLFULL THRILLER."

Rolling Stone
"★★★☆! A KNOCKOUT.
IT SPINS A WEB THAT WILL PULL YOU IN.
A thriller that really thrills."
Peter Travers

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PER DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-273, Series of 2007

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

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Nick adventures

DIMMDSALE ELEMENTARY'S FRIDAY THE 13th dance is one day away and Timmy Turner heads off to Retroville to ask Cindy Vortex to be his date. But Jimmy Neutron was planning to ask Cindy to be his partner at the Lindberg Elementary dance, also on the same day.

"Fairly OddParents & Jimmy Neutron: When Nerds Collide" sees the duel of magic and science on Aug. 31, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Nickelodeon.

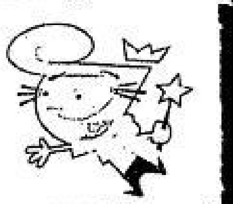
KID FIT

On the same day at 6:30 p.m. on the Nick channel, "Skyland—Dawn of a New Day" features Babylonia, home of Lena, Mahad and their mother Mila who all live happily in a peaceful haven, as humans with telekinetic powers.

Kidnapped by pirates, the kids continue to find their mother and defeat the evil Sphere.

Finally at 9 p.m., the kiddie channel presents Diego, Alicia, Dora and Baby Jaguar as they visit a dinosaur museum that bring them back to the Cretaceous Period in "Go, Diego Go!"

They set off on their journey through the muddy pits, over the rocky cliff, past the rumbling volcano and to Egg Island.



"FAIRLY Oddparents"

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41 DOLBY DIGITAL

RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	A LOVE STORY PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10
SURF'S UP G 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	SURF'S UP G 1:00,3:00,5:00, 7:00,9:00	BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Rockwell's urban bazaar
...a storm of shopping selections!

August 18-19 at the ROCKWELL TENT
POWER PLANT MALL

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COCO MARTIN in "Tirador"

On the set with Batman in Chicago

OPENS AUGUST 22
LUIS ALANDY IRMA ADLAWAN LAUREN NOVERO NANCY CASTIGLIONE AND RICKY DAVAO
INTRODUCING DM SEVILLA CHX ALCALA ELOISA YAP NICOLETTE BELL
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ALFRED ALOYSIUS L. ADLAWAN
Signos
THE SIGN
Makinig sa mga babala.
Makiramdam sa mga kutob.
ADVANCE SCREENING SM MEGAMALL AUGUST 21ST

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

CHICAGO—WE KNEW WE HAD ENTERED the set of the new Batman movie when an area of this beautiful city was suddenly littered with rifle-carrying National Guard troops. These were extras dressed in fatigues, of course.

... and Pinoy films continue to shine abroad

When we got off a shuttle and entered the IBM building, a Chicago architectural landmark by **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe**, our exclusive, day-long visit to the set of "The Dark Knight" began. On our way up the fourth floor, we saw Batman himself, **Christian Bale**, dressed in a suit and waiting at the lobby for filming to start.

But what caught our eye first in was Batman's newest toy, a gray and silver motorcycle equipped with cannons, machine guns and hooks known as the Batpod.

Creating Batpod

Production designer **Nathan Crowley**, who made the Batmobile for "Batman Begins," created a mock-up of this mean-looking bike from materials bought at Home Depot (the home improvement store) with director **Chris Nolan** in the latter's home garage. It fell on **Chris Corbould** to actually make the Batpod.

The first scene that was filmed took place in the lobby. **Aaron Eckhart**, who joins the cast as District Attorney (DA) Harvey Dent, addressed a press conference attended by agitated journalists and hostile onlookers. He assured the public that everything was being done to stop the killings by the Joker (**Heath Ledger**) and that Batman, for some reason, was ready to turn himself in. We watched Aaron placate this angry crowd again and again, take after take. It is a tribute to Aaron's skills as an actor that he was compelling to watch each time.

Standing on the side with extras playing onlookers was Bale as Bruce Wayne. When Aaron stepped off the podium, he put out his hands to show that he was ready to be handcuffed and made a dramatic statement, "I am Batman." Gasps from the crowd greeted this startling announcement. In the story, Aaron's DA character later becomes Two Face, one of Batman's nemeses.

Crowd reactions

Then it was time to shoot the reactions of the crowd, including that of Christian. With Aaron still saying his lines but this time in the background, the camera panned the throng of extras playing the media and then slowly zoomed in on Christian's face. Trying to be un-ubiquitous as Bruce Wayne in this crowd, Christian's acting was all in his eyes, his strongest asset as a thespian. There's soul in those eyes.

After finishing their scenes, Christian and Aaron also went up to our room for interviews.

Then we headed down to watch a spectacular scene—two National Guard helicopters carrying troops flew so low and close together over the Chicago River.

It was a Sunday family affair for the Nolans or a movie family's version of it—Emma, who is married to Chris, and their kids watched the choppers scene as he gave directions.

We'll write more extensively about our set visit in a future column.

Golden age

Not one but two Pinoy films in the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). And three more in the Montreal World Film Festival. Are we in the golden age of Philippine independent cinema? It seems that way.

The Toronto fest has announced that in

ON THE SET/ G2

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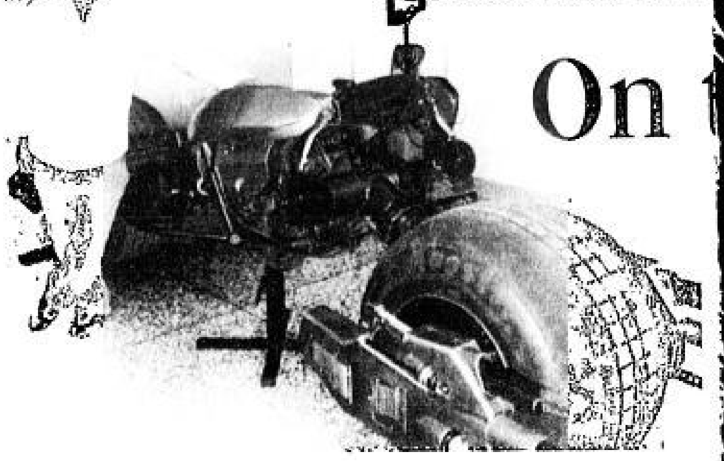

OUR MAN in LA and his new toy, the Batpod. Actually, he borrowed the machine gun-equipped motorcycle from Batman himself during an exclusive visit to the set of "The Dark Knight" in Chicago.

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MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY)	A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY)	SURF'S UP
PREMIERE	
(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR - 3

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, China Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2	SURF'S UP
3	A LOVE STORY
4	RUSH HOUR - 3

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	RUSH HOUR - 3
5	RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1	A LOVE STORY
2	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3	RUSH HOUR - 3
4	SURF'S UP

THEATRES

1	RUSH HOUR - 3
2	A LOVE STORY
3	SPIRIT TRAP

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5271

1	A LOVE STORY
2	OUIJA
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DTS)	A LOVE STORY
4 GOLD (DTS)	A LOVE STORY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SURF'S UP
6 GOLD (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR - 3
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8	OUIJA
9	RATATOUILLE
10	RISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR - 3
3 (DOLBY)	SURFS UP
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	A LOVE STORY
5	RUSH HOUR - 3

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	A LOVE STORY
2	OUIJA
3	CASA
4	THREE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	A LOVE STORY
2	SURSF UP
3	RUSH HOUR - 3

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2	SURSF UP

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2	LICENSE TO WED
3 (DTS ES)	SURSF UP
4	A LOVE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	A LOVE STORY
2	OUIJA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR - 3
2 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY)	SURSF UP
4 (DOLBY)	A LOVE STORY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SURSF UP
2 (DTS)	A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY)	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4	

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	RESERVED
2 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
3 (DTS)	RESERVED
4	RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	OUIJA
2	A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY)	CASA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	OUIJA
2	A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY)	PREMONITION
4 (DTS)	THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2	A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY)	SURFS UP

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1	A LOVE STORY
2	OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	SINKING JAPAN
2	OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY)	OUIJA
2	MATAMIS HANGANG DULO
3	SALAT SA LIGAYA
4 (DTS)	LICENSE TO WED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	A LOVE STORY
2	KAINAN SA HIGHWAY
3 (DTS)	SURF'S UP
4	OUIJA
5	BOURNE ULTIMATUM

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CASA
2	A LOVE STORY
3	SINKING JAPAN
4	SURF'S UP

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	MOLATA
2	HAYOP SA PORMA

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For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	A LOVE STORY	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10	PG-13
2	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 11:05	PG-13
3	SURF'S UP	1:00, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:50	G
4	RUSH HOUR 3	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13

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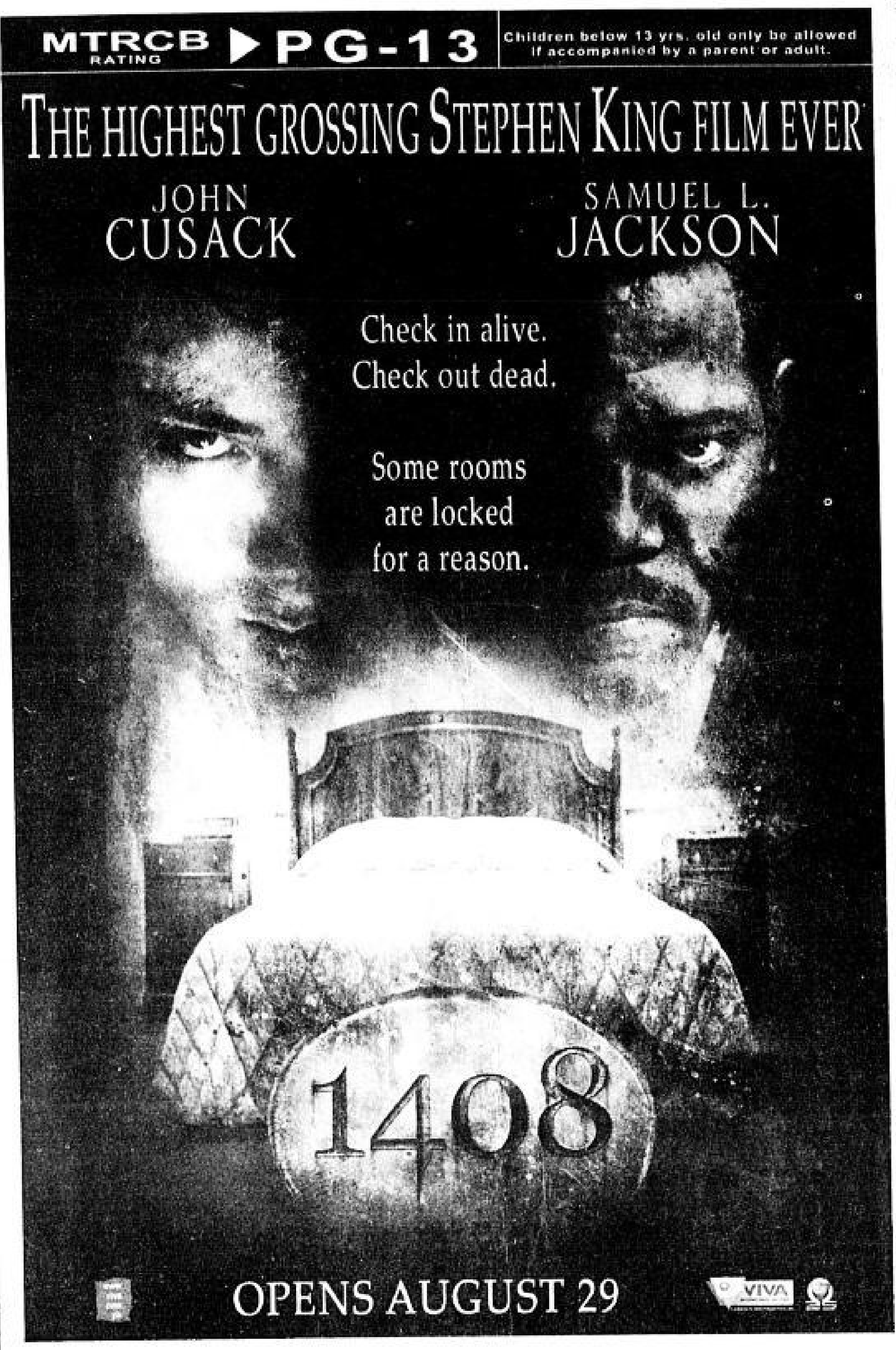
THE HIGHEST GROSSING STEPHEN KING FILM EVER
JOHN CUSACK
SAMUEL L. JACKSON
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Some rooms are locked for a reason.
1408
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SURFS UP	12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
BOURNE ULTIMATUM	11:35 / 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 10:00
RUSH HOUR 3	1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50
RISE	1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45
RATATOUILLE	1:55 / 6:55
BOURNE ULTIMATUM	1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

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1:00 U-CARMEN Ekhayelitsha
3:30 The Girl Who Leapt Thru Time
6:00 LAVIE EN ROSE

CINEMA 4
10:30 SYNDROMES & A CENTURY
1:00 PAO'S STORY
3:00 MUKHSIN
5:00 WE SHALL OVERCOME
7:30 IRINA PALM
10:00 HOME SONG STORIES

CINEMA 6
10:30 RANG DE BVASANTI
1:30 THE MOTEL
3:15 NEO LOUNGE
5:15 VOLVER
7:45 CARRY ON MUNNABHAI

Ali MALL 5

1	OUIJA BOARD	12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
2	RUSH HOUR 3	12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
3	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
4	RISE	12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
5	A LOVE STORY	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30

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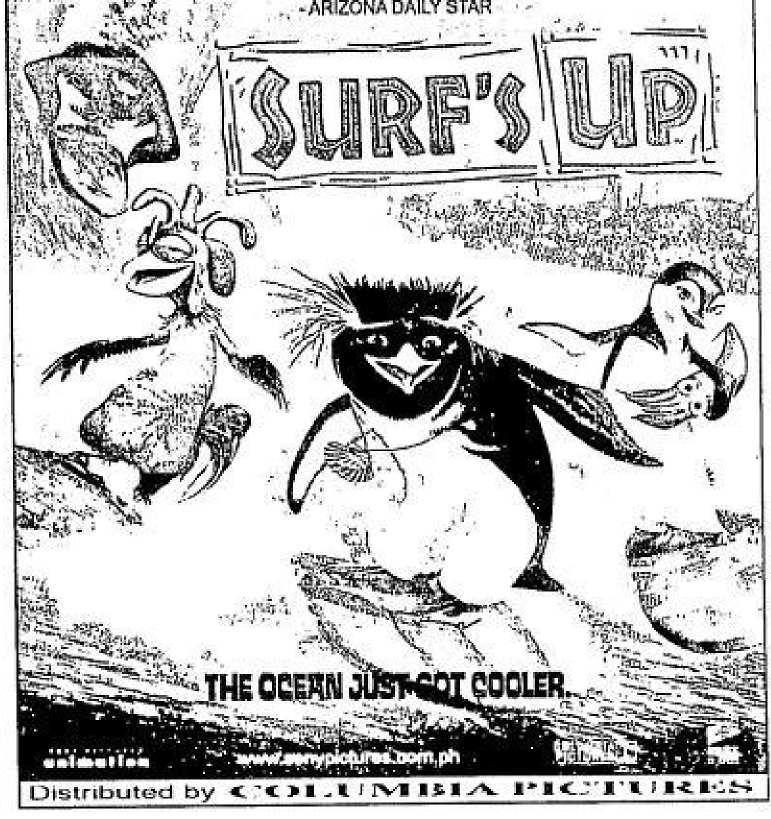
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SHANG CINEPLEX

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② BOURNE ULTIMATUM MTRCB PG-13 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
③ A LOVE STORY MTRCB PG-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
④ SURF'S UP MTRCB GP 11:30, 1:30 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE RUSH HOUR 3 MTRCB PG-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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FROM BRETT RATNER THE DIRECTOR OF "X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND"
NOW SHOWING
JACKIE CHAN CHRIS TUCKER
RUSH HOUR 3

the set with Batman in Chicago

From page G1

addition to **Auraeus Solito's** "Pisay" ("Philippine Science"), the Contemporary World Cinema program will also screen **Brillante "Dante" Mendoza's** "Tirador" ("Slingshot").

Direct and simple

Writing via e-mail, Dante said, "Like 'Foster,' 'Slingshot' is a neo-realist film done in a documentary style. But the difference is, 'Slingshot' is a multi-character story with a multi-layered and complex subject matter. 'Foster' is direct and simple.

"'Slingshot' is about small-time crooks operating in Quiapo during the Holy Week, just in time for the local elections. 'Tirador' is a term for these crooks."

The film, which was written by **Ralston Joel Jover,** stars **Jiro Manio, Kristofer King, Nathan Lopez, Coco Martin, Jaclyn Jose, Julio Diaz** and **Nico Taverna**. The executive producer is **Ferdinand "Ferdy" Lapuz,** who is a moving force for Pinoy films in the international film market.

Dante said he always looks forward to the first public screenings of his films in Toronto. "I enjoy them a lot because of the varied and interesting comments that I hear like, 'I've never been to the Philippines but I saw your country, its people and your culture in your film.'"

Renewed interest

He is glad that there will again be two films from the Philippines. Last year, it was "Twilight…" and **Jeffrey Jeturian's** "Kubrador" ("The Bet Collector"). He shared, "I'm hoping to see more Filipino films not only in Toronto but in Cannes and other film festivals. There is a renewed interest in Asian cinema—Philippine cinema in particular, especially with the recent output of good films at Cinemalaya and Cinemanila."

Auraeus Solito, for his part, wrote, also via e-mail, of the increasing presence and importance of Filipino films in the international scene: "A Filipino filmmaker's success in every festival is every Filipino filmmaker's success. There is indeed a growing interest in Filipino films. Cannes, Berlin, Toronto and other festival programmers keep going back to the Philippines and checking the scene."

The director credits the independent film community for helping spark this resurgence of Filipino talent in world cinema. He declared, "The indie filmmaking scene is very important because it questions the status quo. The democratization of the filmmaking technology has given freedom to the poorest of the poor to express themselves through cinema. We are on the verge of a golden age which no one has ever seen before." We say *mabuhay* to that!

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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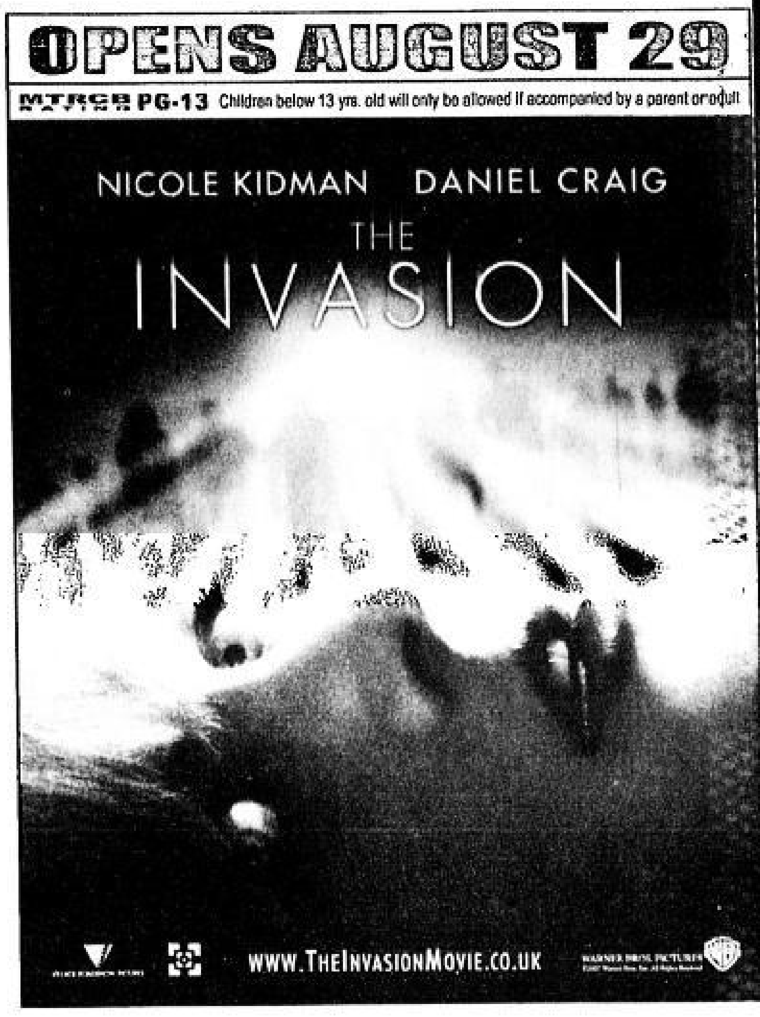
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THE INVASION
WWW.THEINVASIONMOVIE.CO.UK

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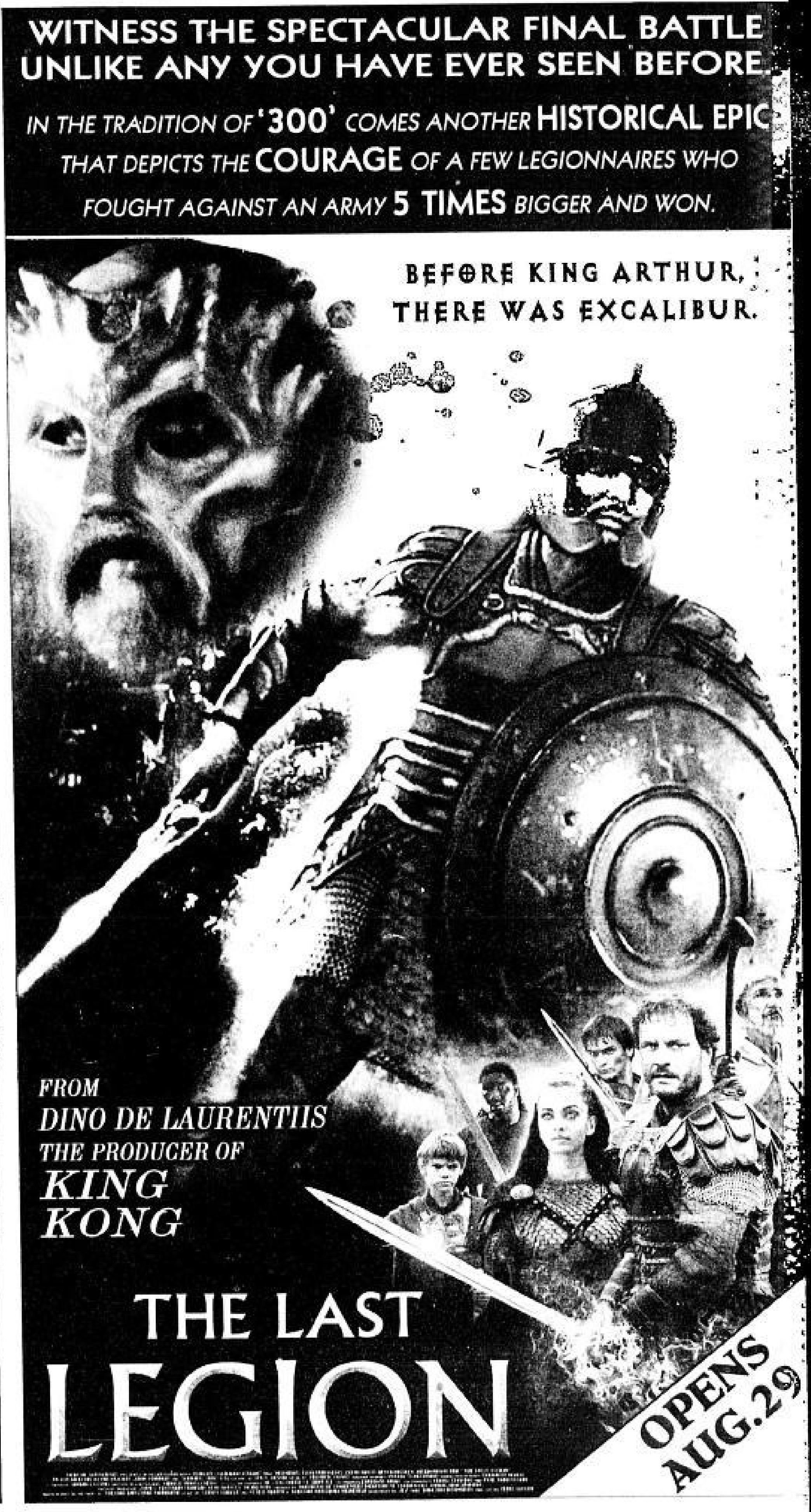
$108,679,524
TOTAL BOX-OFFICE GROSS AS OF 08/13/2007
THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL
John Travolta Michelle Pfeiffer Amanda Bynes Zac Efron James Marsden and Queen Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Brittany Snow Christopher Walken Elijah Kelley Allison Janney introducing Nikki Blonsky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BEFORE KING ARTHUR, THERE WAS EXCALIBUR.
FROM DINO DE LAURENTIIS THE PRODUCER OF KING KONG
THE LAST LEGION
OPENS AUG. 29

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MATT DAMON IS JASON BOURNE
THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
REMEMBER EVERYTHING. FORGIVE NOTHING.
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MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
God has a grand design... Guess who has to build it?
Steve CARELL Morgan FREEMAN
Evan ALMIGHTY
From the Director of BRUCE ALMIGHTY
ORIGINAL FILM THIS FILM IS NOT YET RATED A UNIVERSAL PICTURE
united international pictures release through Solar Entertainment Corporation
IN THEATERS AUG. 22

Asia a 'growing market' for H'wood

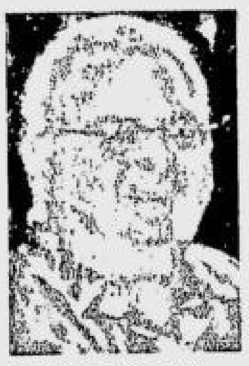
By Bayani San Diego Jr.

NESTOR NIEVES' RECENT VISIT TO THE Philippines was overshadowed by US actor Josh Hartnett and director Quentin Tarantino's presence, but the Cuban movie executive had come with good news.

The Los Angeles-based executive vice president for international sales of New Line Cinema arrived on Aug. 10 for a four-day visit to present the studio's latest lineup, which includes the musical "Hairspray," the action franchise "Rush Hour 3," and its centerpiece production, the fantasy film "The Golden Compass."

New Line has a full plate for the next year, which was why Nieves embarked on a Southeast Asian presentation tour that also included Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Bangkok and Taipei.

"Our international grosses are usually equal to, if not sometimes better than, [US] earnings," Nieves said in an exclusive interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "We are doing very well in Asia. I consider Asia a growing market, as can be seen in the number of new state-of-the-art movie houses being built around the region."


NESTOR NIEVES

During his Manila visit, Nieves also took the chance to watch "Rush Hour 3" in Greenbelt.

He recounted: "The people were screaming and laughing out loud. It was unbelievable. New Line succeeds in Asia because we do a lot of action, comedy and fantasy films."

Biggest production

Nieves said "The Golden Compass," set for a December global release, is considered the studio's biggest production since "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

"The studio has spent $205 million on it [so far]," he said. "The special effects alone cost over $80 million."

Based on the first novel in Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy, the effects-laden family movie stars Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, Sam Elliott, Ian McShane and new discovery Dakota Blue Richards in the cast.

New Line is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Bob Shaye founded New Line, and Nieves has been working with the studio for 20 years.

He shared with the INQUIRER the other movies in the New Line slate:

"The studio is working on the script for the movie version of the hit sitcom 'Sex and the City.' Next month, we are premiering the action flick 'Shoot 'Em Up,' with Clive Owen, Monica Bellucci and Paul Giamatti. In October, we are releasing the drama 'Rendition,' which top-bills Reese Witherspoon, Jake Gyllenhall, Alan Arkin and Meryl Streep."

Another big one in the works, 'Journey 3-D," is based on Jules Verne's 'Journey to the Center of the Earth," shot completely in 3-D. It headlines Brendan Fraser and is set for release in August 2008.

Another science fiction film in the lineup is 'The Time Traveler's Wife,' with Rachel McAdams and Eric Bana.

Cinemanila '07 winners

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE FIRST-TIME ACTORS OF Jim Libiran's "Tribu," real gang members in Tondo, Manila, where the movie is set, bagged the Best Actor award in the International Cinema category of the 9th Cinemanila International Film Festival.

"Tribu" debuted at the recently concluded Cinemanila Philippine Independent Film Festival where the boys also won the Best Actor plum.

The coveted Lino Brocka Grand Prize award went to Fatih Akin's "The Edge of Heaven" (Malaysia). The Best International Short Film award was given to Korea's "Waiting Time," by Chul Jung.

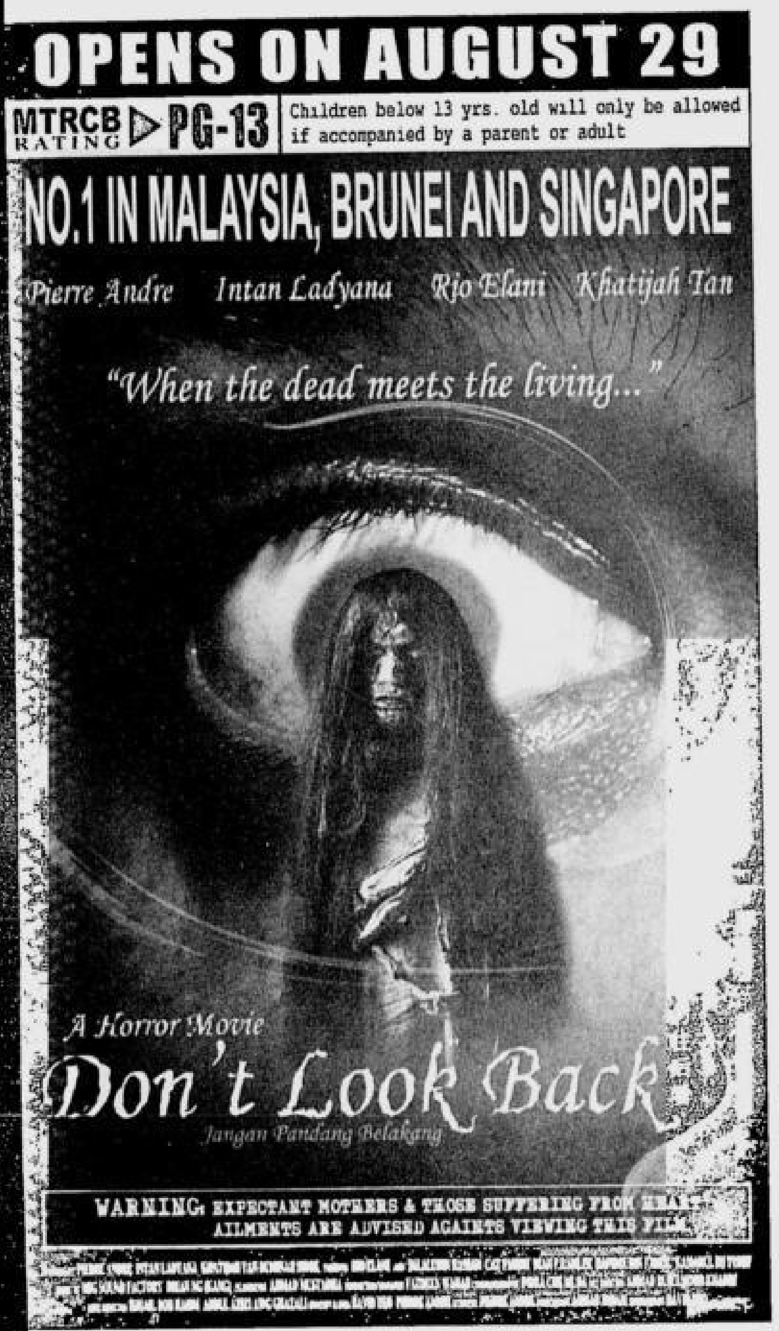
Philippine entry "Neo Lounge," by Joanna Aroma, was Best Documentary.

The biggest winner under the "Digital Lokal" category was John Torres' "Voices, Tilted Screen and Extended Scene of Loneliness; Filipinos on High Definition (A Work in Progress)." It won the Lino Award Grand Jury Prize.

For her work in Briccio Santos' "Ala Swerte, Ala Pobre," Anna Capri won Best Actress.

Christopher Gozum's "The Calling" was declared Best Short Film and "Delusions" by Ernest Michael Manalastas got the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema. Raya Martin took home the Best Director trophy for "Autohystoria."

Best Asean Short Film went to the movie "Renita, Renita" by Tonny Tritnarsanto of Indonesia; Best Asean Feature Film, to "Mukhsin" by Yasmin Ahmad of Malaysia.


OPENS ON AUGUST 29
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Pierre Andre Intan Ladyana Rio Elani Khatijah Tan
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A Horror Movie
Don't Look Back
Jangan Pandang Belakang
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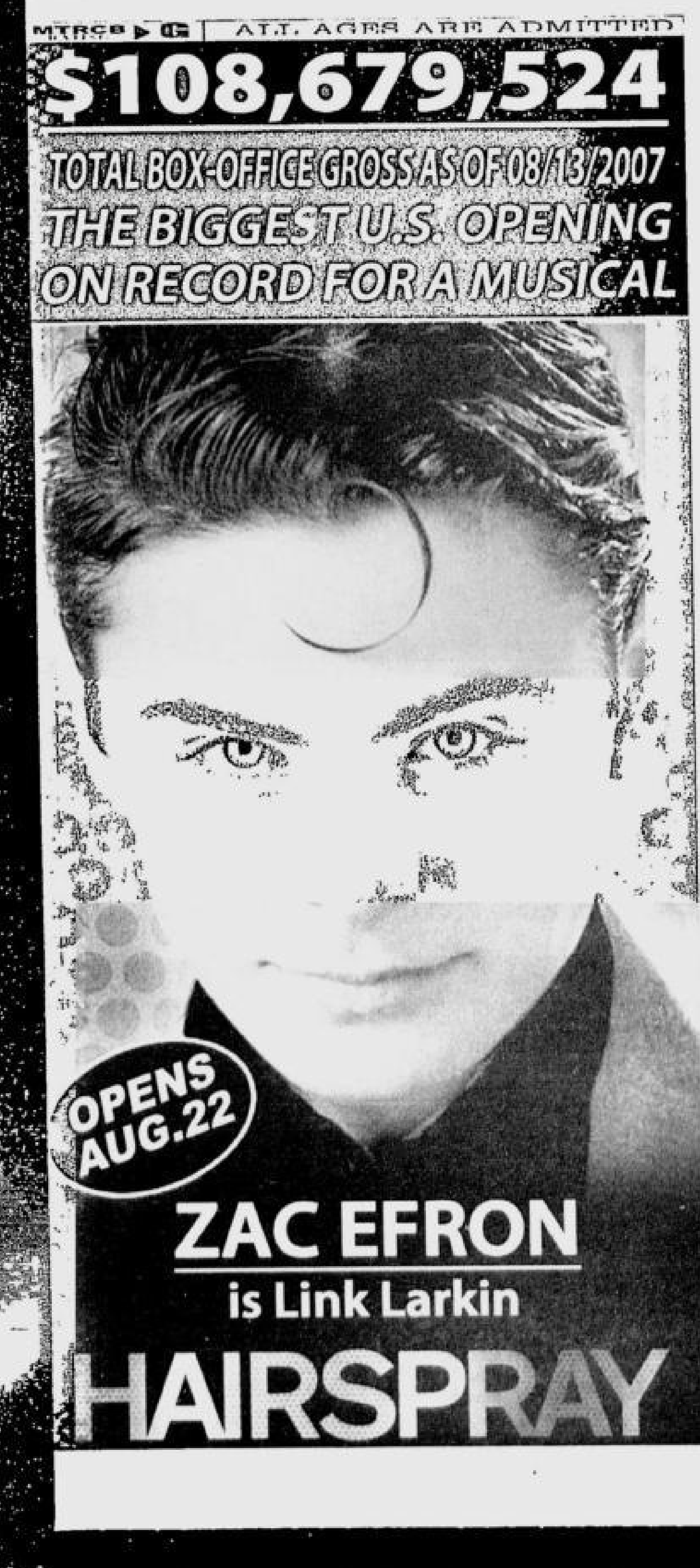
MTRCB G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
$108,679,524
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THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL
OPENS AUG.22
ZAC EFRON
is Link Larkin
HAIRSPRAY

How to fight, then reconcile, in public

RUSHES

By the INQUIRER Entertainment staff

FROM AN EYEWITNESS TO THE BEKTASES' dinner date in Cuisine, at The Fort: "A palpable tension spread when **Yilmaz** and **Ruffa** arrived. He was in black suit; she wore a black-and-red outfit. Yilmaz had a "shooter," an alcohol-laced beverage.

"The couple looked reconciled. Yilmaz did most of the talking, and Ruffa listened intently. Their mood swung from serious to cheerful.

"Yilmaz looked crazy in love. At one point, they both looked like they were holding back tears. Then Ruffa, who was seated across Yilmaz, stood up and sat beside him. He hugged her and whispered something in her ear."

The eyewitness' conclusion: "It's official. *Sila na ulit!*"

RUFFA and Yilmaz on their wedding day.

Gabriela mum

Rushes rushed to get a statement from Gabriela, who had made Ruffa a poster girl for abused women fighting back, citing her for "taking a courageous step toward upholding a person's dignity and self-respect in a society where women are being taught to bear pain in silence."

We called and called. And called again. Silence.

Remarry? Reconvert?

Will they marry again? Will she re-convert to Islam? As **Karen Davila** couldn't help pointing out on Teleradyo when the previously rejected husband turned up: "*Mahirap talaga pag nag-aaway* in public."

Late, later, latest

Quentin Tarantino was three hours late for the 2 p.m. awards rites of the Cinemanila International Film Festival in Malacañang on Wednesday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was late, too. British filmmaker **Robert Malengreau** was a full hour early.

Malengreau is a frequent visitor. "I know how bad the traffic gets, so I [started] two hours early."

Endorsers bulletin

New celebrity endorsers:

- **Alessandra De Rossi** for Auction. ph.
- **Dawn Zulueta** for pH Care's Cool Wind.
- **Katrina Halili** for Hang Ten.
- **BJ Forbes** for The Real Bank, a thrift bank. Cute!

BJ Forbes

His other life

Actor **Juan Rodrigo** makes organic soaps—and sells them. We hear he's a chemist by training.

Quietly, Gary V

Quietly, **Gary V** does his thing. A Unicef national ambassador, the pop superstar recently visited Magpet, a Manobo community in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, where he read to the children from a storybook.

Dramatic Li

HONG KONG—Directing his first action movie, Hong Kong filmmaker **Peter Chan** said his biggest surprise was **Jet Li**'s ability to handle dramatic scenes.

Chan, promoting "The Warlords," told reporters: "[Li] portrays many emotional scenes very seriously, very effectively." *AP*

(Has he seen Li's San Mig ad?)

Animated Chan

HONG KONG—**Jackie Chan** said Thursday he hopes to finish an animated movie based on him that late Cannes-winning Taiwanese-American director Edward Yang was working on at the time of his death.

AP

Priorities

NEW YORK—**Gwen Stefani** says she wants more children—but not while she is on tour and not until she has done another record.

Her 1-year-old son, **Kingston**, has been traveling with the 37-year-old singer on her "The Sweet Escape" tour. *AP*

Paris style

LOS ANGELES—**Paris Hilton** has unveiled her namesake clothing line.

"It's a dream come true," she said. "It's just Paris style: fun, bright and flashy." *AP*

* * *

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

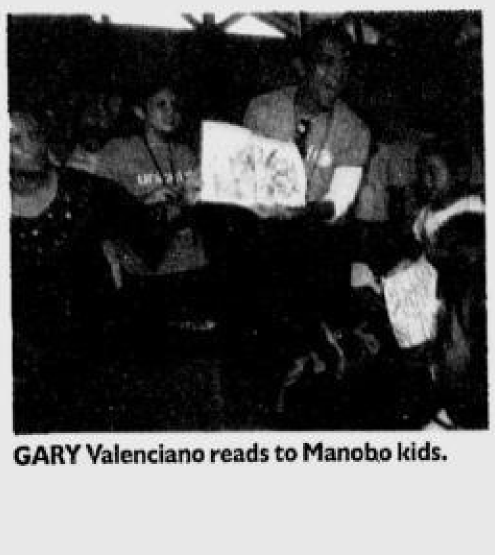
- **Joyce Jimenez**, *natupad din ang pangarap na makahalikan si* **Richard Gutierrez**.
- Joyce *tinuruan si* Richard *kung paano makipaglaplapan*! (*Pareho kaya 'yon?*)
- **Pacquiao**, *balik sa* Pinas *dahil kay* Ara; *Asawa selos na selos.*
- **Ara Mina** *sa* Amerika *maghahanap ng papa* (Boxing skills not required.)

Who's afraid of Yilmaz?

- Yilmaz, *walang* bodyguard *nang lumabas ng* airport.
- Ruffa *binabantayan ni* Yilmaz *sa* taping. (Feeling bodyguard.)
- Ruffa *takot pa kay* Yilmaz!
- **Annabelle** *ayaw harapin si* Yilmaz. (*Takot din?*)
- Ruffa, *'nadiligan' kaya napakatamis ng ngiti.*
- Ruffa, Yilmaz *nilunok ang mga binitawang salita sa isa't isa.*
- *Abangan ang mga susunod na away nina* Ruffa *at* Yilmaz!
- Ruffa, Yilmaz *kailangang magpa-doktor*!
- *Bawal pang magpa-buntis si* Ruffa.

Another Angel overload

- **Ali Sotto**, *nakadagdag sa problema ni* **Angel Locsin**!
- Ali, *nagbanta kay* Angel?
- Ali *nagpagamit nga ba sa* GMA 7?
- Angel Locsin *galit sa* head *ng* GMA Artist Center.
- Yda Henares *pinalagan si* Angel!
- "*Alam kong hindi ho lahat ng tao ay nagkakagusto sa akin, pero huwag ni'yo akong babuyin!*"—Angel
- Angel: "*May takot ako sa Diyos!*"
- Angel: "*Hindi ako traydor!*"
- *Walang masama kung katulong lang ang ina ni* Angel! (Exclamation point not ours.)
- *Mga naninira kay* Angel *umurong ang mga buntot*! (*Ito rin.*)
- Angel ready to gamble, face the queens of ABS-CBN.
- **Oyo**, Angel *magkakabalikan*? (*Sa'n galing 'to?*)


GARY Valenciano reads to Manobo kids.

MARIAN Rivera and Dingdong Dantes in "Marimar"

Tanga raw, o

- Showbiz Central *inisnab ni* Jennylyn.
- GMA boss *tinalakan si* **Jennylyn Mercado**?
- Jennylyn, *tinawag na tanga ng isang* executive *ng* 7?

Slow down, Sarah

- "*Gusto kong maging* Hollywood star"—**Sarah Geronimo**
- Sarah *gustong maging* next **Lea Salonga**. (*Isa-isa lang, hija.*)
- Sarah *kapalit sa trono nina* **Nora Aunor**, **Sharon Cuneta**.
- Sarah Geronimo, *ayaw halikan si* **Jericho Rosales**?

Make or break

- 'Marimar' make or break kay **Marian Rivera**.
- *Mas gustong kahalikan ni* **Dingdong** *si* Marian *kaysa kay* **Katrina**.

"*Matamis ang lips ni* Dong."—Marian Rivera

- Marian: **Karylle** is lucky to have a BF like Dingdong.
- Dingdong, *nag-topless lang* big deal *na.*

Anything but...

- Surname *ni* **Lovi Poe**, *palitan*!
- Lovi willing to try all roles, except sexy.
- Lovi, "*bininyagan*" ni **John Prats**. (*Para magpalit ng* surname?)
- *Isang bagets na* multi-millionaire *ang* suitor *ni* Lovi. (Another way to do it.)

Lies, lies

- **Katrina Halili** *sinungaling*! *Hindi bastos ang* 6cyclemind!
- **Bruce Quebral**, *walang pagnanasa kay* **Wendy Valdez**! (*Sinungaling!*)

Et cetera

- **Roxanne Guinoo**, *plastikada na, laitera pa*!
- **Willie Revillame**, *sabik nang maging lolo*!
- **Jean Garcia**, *takot maging lola agad*!
- "*Hindi ko pinag-aaway sina* **Lotlot** *at* **Tita Guy**!"—**Nadia Montenegro.**
- **Kris Aquino**, *grabe na kung barabarahin si* **Boy Abunda**! (*Ay, grabe.*)
- **Maja Salvador** *ngarag sa* work *kaya hindi makaiskor si* **Jason Abalos.**
- **Judy Ann** *nahuhulog ang loob kay* **Derek Ramsey**?
- **Oks** *lang kay* Derek Ramsey: Boobs *ni* **Angelica** *idinikit sa dibdib ni* **Aga Muhlach.**
- **Sitti** *at* **Aiza Seguerra** *may relasyon*? (*Na naman?*)
- **Zsa Zsa**, active *ang* sex life.
- **Alfred Vargas** not emotionally prepared for marriage. (Only a few are.)
- **Regine** *at* **Ogie** OA *sa* PDA.
- **Cristine Reyes**, *hindi nagalingan sa direktor ng* launching movie *niya*. (*Sa pag-*direct.)

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2007

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Drydocking and Other Related Repair of DF-349, DF-320, PG-387, AF-72 & VU-469

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the PN Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects **(HS-PB-169-PNB-07)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
Lot-1 Drydocking and Other related repair of **DF-349**	Php 7,429,000.00	271330H August 2007	100900H September 2007	Php 3,000.00
Lot-2 Drydocking and Other related repair of **DF-320**	Php 5,317,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-3 Drydocking and Other related repair of **PG-387**	Php 5,052,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-4 Drydocking and Other related repair of **AF-72**	Php 3,371,000.00			Php 3,000.00
Lot-5 Drydocking and Other related repair of **VU-469**	Php 1,978,000.00			Php 1,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Drydocking and Other Related Repair of DF-349, DF-320, PG-387, AF-72 & VU-469.** Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or oustanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday** to **Friday**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Mentioned in Para 1.* The method of payment will be *in the form of cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on ***August 27, 2007, 1:30 PM* at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***September 10, 2007, 9:00 AM.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on ***September 10, 2007, 9:00 AM* at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee
BNS, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
*Contact Person: **CDR GLICERIO P VILLANUEVA PN***
Cel Nr: 0917-8599-434 / 0918-2016-522
Tel Nr: 616-8218, 815-3420, 843-4416 & 815-8093 local 6341

(Sgd.) **ADRIANO V MUNAR JR**
CAPT PN (GSC)
Chairman, PNBAC

(PDI--Aug. 19, 2007)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Humanitarian Aid

Call for Abstracts - Call for Papers

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), in collaboration with Oxfam Great Britain Philippine Programme, is pleased to announce the search for case studies on Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). This activity is part of the project funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) through its disaster preparedness programme (DIPECHO), which aims to assist vulnerable people living in the disaster-prone regions of the world in reducing the impact of natural disasters on their lives and livelihoods.

The Philippines is host to a number of grassroot initiatives, which have proven effective in promoting disaster risk reduction efforts in various areas in the country. If properly documented, these CBDRM good practices can be replicated in other areas most likely to be affected by disasters. This undertaking will help communities, especially those that are regarded as disaster prone, in actively engaging local residents in disaster risk management program and providing guidelines to CBDRM practitioners.

If your organization or you have a case story that documents good practices in CBDRM in the country, please apply.

The case studies on CBDRM good practice should be able to demonstrate at least five (5) of the following characteristics/elements:

- Community ownership
- Use of local knowledge about hazards
- Communities as the ultimate beneficiaries of the good practice
- Multi-stakeholder participation
- Education and capacity building
- Gender sensitivity
- Culturally appropriate
- Sensitive to local structures
- Harmonizes local, indigenous and scientific knowledge
- Complements top-down approach
- Demonstrates potential for building economic resilience
- Demonstrates transparency in procedures and processes
- Commitment and accountability of stakeholders
- Communication design
- Exit strategy or sustainability mechanisms
- Responsiveness to community needs
- Accepted by the community
- Strong community participation and functional organizations
- Tangible results
- CBDRM Systems in place
- Can be a model for replication
- Cost effective

Abstract Format and Content.

- Title of the project/good practice
- Project/good practice proponents
- Background/Rationale
- Objectives
- Target clientele
- Outputs
- Mechanics of implementation
- Timetable
- Project cost
- Maximum of two pages (2)
- Typewritten, single-spaced, times new roman 12, A4

Submission Instructions

- Electronic and hard copy submissions to any of the following between August 20 to September 7, 2007:

Oxfam Great Britain Philippine Office
Tel. 632-921-7203 / 632-433-6115
Fax. 632-927-0499

Donna Mitzi D. Lagdameo
dlagdameo@oxfam.org.uk

Lyra Magalang
lmagalang@oxfam.org.uk

Office of Civil Defense-National Disaster Coordinating Council
632-912-5947 / 632-912-0441

Ruth R. Rodriguez
ruth_reyes_rodriguez@yahoo.com.ph

Abstract Selection

- Based on the set criteria, a panel of nine (9) will review each abstract
- A total of ten (10) case studies will be chosen for case study development
- At the end of the case writing period and upon submission of the full blown cases, the panel will choose five (5) cases which will be given financial support of PhP40,000.00 each and will be included in the publication. The other five cases will likewise be included in the publication but with no financial support.

Timeline

- Deadlines for abstract submission: September 7, 2007, 5:00 PM (earlier submissions are encouraged)
- Announcement of case studies selected: September 10, 2007
- Case study writing: September 11 to October 11, 2007
- Publication of the case studies: October 12-31, 2007
- Launching of the case studies: November 16, 2007

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR BIDS

August 2007
ADB Loan No. 1750-PHI
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Contract No. ADBTES-6B

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contracts for the **Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing, Training and Commissioning of Various Information & Communication Technology Equipment, Media Equipment & Accessories and Aircon Unit/Industrial Fans (ADBTES-6B).**
2. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply, delivery, installation, testing, training and commissioning of Various Information & Communication Technology Equipment, Media Equipment & Accessories and Aircon Unit/Industrial Fans (ADBTES-6B).
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Shopping procurement method.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TESDA and inspect the Bidding Document at the address given below from 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.
5. The Bidding Document, in the English language, may be purchased by the interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Philippine pesos 2,000.00 or in US$ equivalent. The method of payment will either be in certified bank check or cash. The document will be couriered or sent through registered mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. Bid must be delivered to the address below at or before **12:00 noon** on **September 4, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 2% of the amount of the bid. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **2:00 PM on September 4, 2007.**
7. The TESDA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
8. The address is:

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Administration Building, TESDA Complex
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Philippines
Contact : The Bids and Awards Committee Chairman
Telephone Nos. : (63 2) 8174076-81 loc. 314 & 315 and 888-5798
Fax No. : (63 2) 817-9040
Email : psd_ocsa@tesda.gov.ph
Website : www.tesda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **TEODORO S. SANICO Ph. D.**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 19, 2007)

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

Department Administrative Order No. 04 ;
Series of 2007

SUBJECT : **Amending Section 4 of Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 07, Series of 2005 and Department Order (DO) No. 01, Series of 2006 on the Composition of the Garments and Textile Import Services (GTIS) Inter-Agency Executive Committee**

WHEREAS, DAO No. 07, Series of 2005 devolves the import-related functions of the Garments and Textile Export Board (GTEB) to the One Stop Shop for Garments lodged under the Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP):

WHEREAS, pursuant to DAO No. 07, the Garments and Textile Import Services (GTIS) was created to undertake residual import-related functions of GTEB and hold office at the Frontline Service area of BETP;

WHEREAS, DO No. 01, Series of 2006, designated the officials to compose the members of GTIS Inter-Agency Executive Commitee;

WHEREAS, the Frontline Services of BETP, including GTIS, are under the administrative supervision of the BETP Director and the Supervising Assistant Director of BETP's Trade and Information Assistance Group (TIAG);

NOW, THEREFORE, it is prescribed that the members of the GTIS Inter-Agency Executive Commitee be expanded to include the Supervising Assistant Director of BETP's TIAG and shall exercise functions as laid down under Memorandum Order No. 01-06 issued by the GTIS Special Commitee and consistent with GTIS rules and regulations.

In matters that require the approval of the GTIS Inter-Agency Executive Commitee, the signature of the Chairperson and at least two (2) of its members would suffice to execute a decision. The attached Annex A on Approving/Signing Authority, would also form part of this Order.

This Order takes effect immediately. All provisions of DAO No. 07 series of 2005 and DO No. 01 series of 2006, not inconsistent herewith shall remain valid.

Done this 18th day of July 2007 at the City of Makati.

(Sgd.) PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary

ANNEX A

Garments and Textile Import Services
Approving/Signing Authority

	To be Signed by Division Head in behalf of any of the IA Excom Member	To be Approved/ Signed by any one of the IA Excom Members	To be Approved/ Signed by Inter-Agency Excom
A. BMW/CBMW			
1. *Memos:*			
a. BMW/CBMW license			✓
b. Extension/expansion of BMW/CBMW			✓
c. Relocation of BMW/ CBMW			✓
d. Cancellation of BMW/ CBMW license			✓
e. Renewal of BMW license			✓
f. Accreditation of garment exporters as CBMW members		✓	
g. Approval of Subcontractors' Accreditation and Registration		✓	
h. Ratification of Actions taken by the Board			✓
2. *Letters:*			
a. Approval to inspect plant facilities		✓	
b. Excom Approval of BMWs (new/renewal)			✓
c. Miscellaneous inquiry on BMW/ CBMW			✓
d. Excom Approvals of BMW / CBMW members		✓	
e. Requests for inputs from other government agencies (BOC, Trade Attaches, etc.)	✓		
B. SUBCONTRACTORS			
1. *Certificates*			
a. Subcon accreditation	✓		
b. Subcon registration	✓		

(PDI–August 19, 2007)

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- Parañaque San Dionisio Amvel Industrial Park 8,500 sq.m. PhP12,000/sq.m. (neg)
- Boracay Island, w/ beachfront 3.3ha PhP11,000.00/sq.m.
- Tanay Farm lots 1,000 sq.m. - 4 ha (titled) PhP150/sq.m.
- Tanay, Sampaloc, 18ha, ideal for poultry & piggery PhP60.00/sq.m.
- Tanza, Cavite, near market, 3-storey apt. bldg w/ tenants PhP2.5M
- Cavinti, Lake Caliraya, 140 ha PhP75.00/sq.m. (neg)
- Tanay, 16ha. Farm w/ beautiful furnished vacation house, trees, crops, fighting cocks & native chicken, generator & water PhP7.9M
- Antipolo, 644 sq.m. res lot, cor. Pineapple & Chestnut Valley View Exec Village, overlooking Valley Golf Club PhP5,000.00/sq.m.
- Orchard Golf & Country Club lots PhP3,000.00/sq.m.
- Palayan City, 1,000 ha PhP25.00/sq.m. (net)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **"Lease-to-Own of IT Hardware and Peripherals with Bundled Software"** of the Department of Trade and Industry, with an approved budget of Three million seven hundred ninety thousand five hundred pesos (Php 3,790,500.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 21 August 2007 until 5 P.M. of 28 August 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Three thousand seven hundred ninety pesos (Php 3,790.00). Check payments should be made payable to **"DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY – BIDDER'S BOND."** A pre-bid conference is scheduled at 9:30 A.M. to 28 August 2007 at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 11 September 2007, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 19, 2007)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Extrajudicial settlement among heirs of late ESPERANZA GOTENGCO TAPIADOR before notary public Atty. Richard Anolin. Doc. No. 121 Page No. 25 Book No. 16 Series 2007 (Aug. 5, 12 & 19, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROBERTO P. OTAYZA consisting of all shares of capital stocks at FEU,FERN REALTY CORPORATION as well as unclaimed cash/stocks devidends were extrajudicially settled by the heirs as Per Doc#204 Page#41 Book#VI Series of 2007 by Notary Public Atty. Andrew V. Ferrer of Cainta Rizal(PDI-Aug.19,26&Sept.2.2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NAPOLEON M. CADIENTE was extrajudicially settled with waiver among his heirs as per Doc. No. 319; Page No. 65; Book No III; Series of 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Bella Flor P. Geromo of Parañaque City. (PDI Aug. 12, 19 & 26, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ARSENIO C. SALAZAR HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AS PER DOC NO. 366; PAGE NO. 74; BOOK NO. LXIV; SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC CARLOS ABESAMIS OF PASIG CITY.
(PDI- Aug. 5, 12, 19, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANNABELLEE C. SINGZON consisting of her money at the Meralco Savings and Loan Association (MESALA)divided equal among her Five Children agre each of their share divided equally shall belong to Egberto Q. Singzon Entered into and ratified before Atty Romeo T. Telpo of Pasig City as per doc# 122,page# 25 Book #XIV Series of 2007.(PDI-Aug 19,26&Sept.2'07)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following Phil. Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) Common Stock Certificates has been reported lost: MFO 180237 for 6 shares under the name of JUAN MIGUEL M. VASQUEZ; MFO 180235 for 13 shares and MFO 231528 for 4 shares both under the name of MA. VICTORIA M. VASQUEZ. If no contest received, new stock certificates will be Issued. (PDI Aug. 19,26 & Sept. 2, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Certificate Nos.
MFU 038261 285 shares,
MFU 040754 299 shares
and MFU 043697 500 shares
registered under the name of TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. were declared lost and is now subject for reconsitution by TRCFI / PDAF. If no contest is received within 1 year, new certificates will be issued by HSBC. (PDI-Aug. 5, 12 & 19, 2007)

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENCY
of the
VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Preferably be at least thirty-five (35) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old on the deadline for the submission of applications for the position.
2. Must be a Filipino citizen to include any person who may have become a naturalized citizen of another country but has been able to acquire dual-citizenship.
3. Must be a holder of an earned Doctorate degree.
4. Must have a proven track record as top administrator in academic field such as President, Vice-President and Campus Director, whether public or private tertiary educational institution, for the period of three (3) years. These must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professorial and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the University.
6. Must be of good moral character.
7. Must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude or of any administrative charge.

Note: *Qualified applicants are requested to submit all the required clearances on or before the deadline. Failure to submit all clearances by then will mean forfeiture of the application.*

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:
   Hon. NONA S. RICAFORT PhD.
   Chairperson, VSU Board of Regents
   Visayas State University
   Visca, Baybay, Leyte
2. Curriculum Vitae with authenticated / certified supporting documents.
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and thrusts for the College/University
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a government physician as recommended by the Search Committee.
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan *(Note: Pending Case not a clearance)*
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under oath
8. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of Year 2006

Important: Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before **15 September 2007** to any of the following:

Chair of the Search Committee OR
Visayas State University
Visca, City of Baybay, Leyte

Attention: **DANIEL M. TUDTUD, JR.**
Board Secretary

Hon. Nona S. Ricafort
Commissioner
5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
Commission on Higher Education
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City

Attention: **IMELDA G. CALVO**
Executive Assistant

WANTED IMMEDIATELY!
PLANT MECHANICS
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WELDERS
PLUMBERS
WAREHOUSEMEN

These positions will be based in Bulacan.
Applicants must apply at:

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Tel. No: 412-1779

Television and Production Exponents, Inc. (TAPE Inc.)
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1. Male
2. Not over 30 years old
3. With experience in TV Production
4. Graduate of a Reputable School

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1. Male
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Please submit or hand-carry your resumé at the address below:

Television and Production Exponent Inc. (TAPE Inc.)
79 Xavierville Subd., Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Q.C.

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Peter Porticos performs at CCP Filipino artists series

NOTED PIANIST Peter Porticos will be the featured guest performer at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' (CCP) Filipino Artists Series II slated on Aug. 29, 7:30 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater.

Program includes: Beethoven's *Sonata in C major op. 53 "Waldstein"*, Chopin's *Andante spinanato* and *Grande Polonaise Brilliante*, Africa's *Tokata Chua-ay*, and Ravel's *Gaspard de la nuit*.

Porticos holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the Ateneo de Manila University and a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance (magna cum laude) from the UST Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, Marina Escano and Leonor Kilayko. As soloist, he had performed with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under Rodel Colmenar and the UST Symphony Orchestra under the late Cecinio Ronquillo and Herminigildo Ranera. Aside from the CCP, he has also performed at the Philamlife Theater, Equitable PCIBank Tower, Concert at the Park, Paco Park Presents, the Pundaquit Chamber Music Festival, as well as solo recitals and chamber music concerts in Europe. From 1996-2001, Porticos studied Piano Performance and chamber music under Prof. Walter Olbertz and earned his *"Diplominstrumentalist"* degree from the *Hochschule fuer Musik "Hanns Eisler"* in Berlin, Germany. In 2005, he attended masterclasses in German lieder under Prof. Norman Shetler at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Porticos is currently a faculty member of the UST Conservatory of Music and coordinator of its piano department.

Ticket price: P500.00. For more information, please call the CCP Music Division at 832-1125 loc. 1604/1605; Marketing Department at 832-1125 loc. 1805; Ticketworld at National Bookstores and Tower Records at 891-9999 or the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or visit: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

UP Manila Biology Week

THE DEPARTMENT of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences of the UP Manila invites students, teachers, alumni and the public to the 16th Biology Week 2007 with the theme "Global Warming: A Global Warning (Biology at the Forefront of the Global Warming Issue)." The week-long event starts Aug. 21 with exhibits and Alumni forum; BioQuiz (Inter-High School Biology Quiz) and seminar on Global Warming on Aug 22; and Biogyugan, a variety show, on Aug. 24.

For inquiries contact Prof. Marilen M. Parungao at (02) 526-5861.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Public Bidding for Medical Equipments

The **Office of the Vice President of the Philippines** with the assistance of **Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA)**, through the **"PCSO CHARITY FUND" PCSO Board Resolution No. 038, Series of 2007, Jan. 17, 2007 and No. 161, Series of 2007, March 14, 2007** intends to apply the sum of **P 26,000,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Medical Equipments**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA)** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Medical Equipments** to be procured.

Delivery of the Goods is required **from October to November, 2007**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA)** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from Monday to Friday at **8:00am to 5:00pm.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos Only (P5,000.00)**. The method of payment shall be in **Cash**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA)** shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 31, 2007, 10:00am (Thursday) at the Fernando Generic's Hall, CHD IV-B (MIMAROPA) Project 4, Quezon City.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 13, 2007, 10:00am (Thursday).** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank or in case of a foreign bank, or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed or authenticated by a reputable local bank corresponding to one percent (1%), bank guarantee corresponding to one and a half percent (1 ½%), and surety bond callable upon demand issued by a reputable surety or insurance company corresponding to two and a half percent (2 ½%) or any combination thereof and foreign government guarantee corresponding to one hundred percent (100%) of the approved budget of the contract and in the amount of **P 26,000,000.00** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **September 13, 2007, 10:00am (Thursday)**, at the **Fernando Generic's Hall**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Submission of Eligibility requirements and Receipt of bids will not be later than 10:00am of the specified dates scheduled.

The Center for Health Development IV-B (MIMAROPA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further inquiries please contact the following personnel:

VALERIANO V. LOPEZ Jr., MD, MPH
BAC – Chairman
Center for Health Development IV-B
(MIMAROPA)
QMMC, Cmpd., Project 4, Quezon City
Tel/Fax # 911-50-38

or

Mr. ROMULO F. CAYABYAB Jr.
BAC-Secretariat
Tel/Fax # 995-08-20

(Sgd.) VALERIANO V. LOPEZ, JR., MD., MPH., MHA., CSEE.
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 19, 2007)

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

August 14, 2007

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) invites all qualified canteen operators/concessionaires to pre-qualify and bid for the Provision of Canteen at the NHMFC Head Office.

Interested parties may secure pre-qualification information sheet starting August 21-24, 2007 from the Office of the Manager, Administrative and Finance Department at the 6th Floor, Filomena Building III, 104 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, submission of which will be from August 28-31 and September 3-4, 2007. A pre-bidding conference of qualified bidders will be held at the NHMFC Conference Room on September 20, 2007 at 2:00 p.m., by which the actual date of submission and opening of bids shall be announced. Failure to attend the pre-bidding conference will be ground for disqualification to participate in the bidding.

All proposals must be accompanied by a bidder's bond equivalent to 1% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Manager's check payable to NHMFC and 2-1/2% for GSIS bid bond.

NHMFC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality/deficiency therein or to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information/clarification on the above matters, please contact Ms. Moi A. Velasco of General Services Division, Administrative and Finance Department, Telephone No. 893-1501, local 378/304.

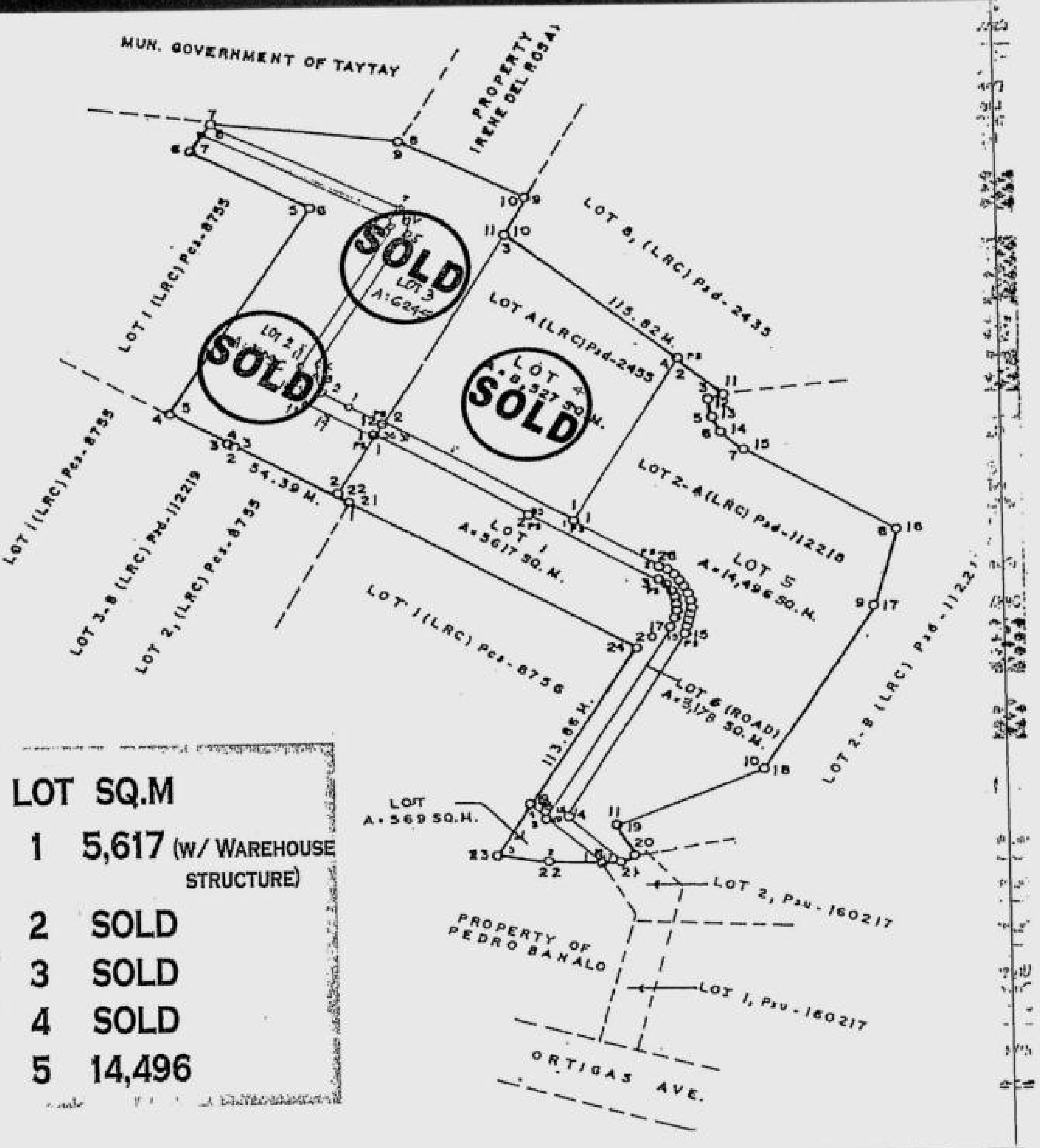
(Sgd.) **MA. DAISY S. DULAY**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 19, 2007)

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head Office: 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 899-4427; 897-8425 (Telefax)
Cubao: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
Makati: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
Kalaw: 528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall: 635-0219; 635-0220

LOTS FOR SALE!!!



LOT	SQ.M
1	5,617 (W/ WAREHOUSE STRUCTURE)
2	SOLD
3	SOLD
4	SOLD
5	14,496

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   36 SQ.M. STUDIO TYPE UNIT, WITH TOILET AIRCON, BARE, WITH OPTIONAL PARKING SLOT, FOR SALE.
   ASKING PRICE : P4.5M.
2. PENINSULA DE PUNTA FUEGO LOT
   LOT 6, BLOCK 23, 660 SQ.M.
   PRE-SELLING PRICE : P10,500 / SQ.M.
3. HOUSE AND LOT IN BACOLOD
   (FORMERLY MONTESSORI SCHOOL)
   5 NORTH DRIVE, BACK OF REDEMPTIONIST CHURCH, 600 SQ.M.
   ASKING PRICE : P7M (NEGOTIABLE)
4. VILLA DE TOLEDO, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA
   150 SQ.M., FACING ENCHANTED KINGDOM
   ASKING PRICE : P500,000.

For inquiries, call JAIME TRINIDAD at 521-6138 or 522-4792 (during office hours), 842-0127 or 0917-7438789.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES (ICHS)
NFA CEBU - REGION VII

52,500 MT (1,050,000 Bags) OF IMPORTED RICE TO BE UNLOADED BY MEANS OF INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES (ICHS), TO INCLUDE UNLOADING OF CARGOES FROM FOREIGN VESSEL TO TRUCK OR LOCAL VESSEL; TRUCKING SERVICE FROM ONE AREA/WAREHOUSE/ PORT OF DESTINATION AND HANDLING OF STOCKS WITHIN NFA WAREHOUSES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2007* intends to apply the sum of *Twenty Five Million Six Hundred Ninety Five Thousand and Fifty Pesos (P 25,695,050.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS) for NFA Cebu.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Integrated Cargo Handling Services (ICHS) for NFA Cebu. The ICHS involves the unloading of imported rice from foreign vessels to NFA designated warehouses in Metro Cebu, to include, among others, wharfage, stevedoring, arrastre, use of tugboat, crane, strip cleaning, trimming, bagging, rebagging, Custom's overtime, checkering charges, special/standby charges, hauling, weighing, handling, etc. Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2007, or upon completion of the services for the 52,500 MT volume, whichever is applicable.

Re-Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidders must have a Largest Single Contract that is completed and accomplished within the twelve month period between 2004 up to the present which is similar in nature and complexity and the value thereof must be at least 50% of the ABC. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting August 19, 2007 to August 27, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 28, 2007 @ 9:00 AM*** at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***September 10, 2007*** *not later than 9:00 AM.*

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid in the following form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash /Cashier's/Manager's Check	One Percent (1%)
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)
Notarized Bank Guarantee	One & a Half Percent (1.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***September 10, 2007 @ 9:00 AM at NFA*** *Training Center, 3rd Flr, Banilad, Cebu City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders and or their authorized representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bids most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
RAUL B. CHONG
Banilad, Cebu City
Tel No. 032- 232-1939
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
Fax no.: 032-233-6095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) **RAUL B. CHONG**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - Aug. 19, 2007)

NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION, INC.
(The One-Stop Trade Organization)

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
12th NREA – HUDCC NATIONAL CONVENTION & TRADE EXHIBITS

Theme: *A BETTER OUTLOOK IN PHILIPPINE REAL ESTATE*
"Building Local, Selling Global, Developing Green"

Trade Exhibits:
*September 10 & 11, 2007 * Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Ave., Makati City*
National Convention:
*September 27 & 28, 2007 * Makati Sports Club, Salcedo Village, Makati City*

The convention aims to provide a suitable and relevant venue where concerned stakeholders in the industry offer updates on recent developments and trends, as well as the latest innovations and technology, on their products and services.

The sub-themes:

(1) Philippine Real Estate: Global Demographics and their Real Estate Investment Implications (2) Developing Green: Integrating Sustainability with Success (3) Technology: Unplugged (4) Real Estate Marketing and Management. Participants will come from private and government offices of various cities and provinces in the Philippines, and other countries.

REGISTRATION FEES:

NREA Member	*P 2,500.00 (On Site)* *P 2,300.00 (Early Bird) **	*Non – Member*	*P 3,000.00 (On Site)* *P 2,700.00 (Early Bird) **
Student	*P1,800.00*		** Early bird discount is up to Sept. 15, 2007*

(Includes 2 Lunch, Snacks, Cocktails, Certificate of Attendance, Kit and Convention Documents.)

NOTICE

Please make checks payable to:
NREA, INC.
Banco de Oro
Savings Acct. No. 2160009268
Cubao Branch
Tel. Nos.: 913-4463 & 912-3492 *, Email : nrea_org@yahoo.com

(REAL ESTATE BROKERS WILL EARN CEP CREDIT HOURS.)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that **REUBEN SAMUEL JAIPRAHKASH DEVAIRAKAM a.k.a. Reuben Samuel**, whose picture appears above, is one of the accused in a criminal case for violation of article 172, Revised Penal Code (Falsification by Private Individual) in People of the Philippines vs. Reuben Samuel, et al., Criminal Case No. 139383 pending before the Metropolitan Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 41.

You may contact Cel. No. 0919-3307915 for any information on his whereabouts. Information will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

(PDI – August 19, 2007)

IS YOUR BUSINESS DYIN
SEASON 3
NEW
CSI
OUR BUSINESS DYING?
SEASON 3

Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. recently held its third national seminar titled "Is Your Business Dying?" New CSI: Customer Service Ideas -Season 3 at The Lighthouse Marina Resort in Subic Bay. The two-day seminar featured speakers from the U.S., Ms. JoAnn Baldwin of Aurora Caskets, Mr. Bernard Naegele and Dr. Thelma G. Villanueva, who delivered talks about current trends in the mortuary industry and other topics ranging from "Balanced Funeral Arrangements" to "DNA Analysis and Profiling". Photo shows the participants, representing more than 40 of the industry's most respected funeral homes.

POWERMAX CONSULTING GROUP INC. **proudly presents:**

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Equipping Your Leaders for Better Results

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The supervisory skills of your front-line leaders will enhance or suppress the maximum potential of your people and business. How effective are they in dealing with your people? In what ways can they improve? Equip your supervisors. Let them learn the latest techniques and styles of proactive supervision and leadership and see your teams perform more productively.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Common Denominator of Success
- The Paradigms of Top Supervisors
- How to Boost Productivity
- Confronting and Solving Attitude Problems
- Office Politics 101
- Creating Understanding ---
  The Power of Clear Communication
- Goal-Setting and Goal-Reaching

SEMINAR INVESTMENT:

Regular Rate - Php1,595.00 + VAT (Until August 23)
Early Bird Rate - Php1,295.00 + VAT (Starting August 24)
(Seminar investment is inclusive of snacks, handouts, certificates and car pass)

"DEVELOP YOUR LEADERS. IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE."

This Event is Sponsored by: INQUIRER, Vacation Club International, JOB Market, CROWNE PLAZA, citibank, LLOYDLUNA

CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATION:
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MR. JOSE V. LACANILAO, JR.** (whose picture appears above) is no longer connected with **Stemiko Commercial effective July 13, 2007.**

Any transactions entered into by **Mr. Lacanilao** shall not be honored by the company.

(PDI--Aug. 19, 2007)

WANTED CHEMIST

A Leading Manufacturer, Fabricator & Installer of Solid Surfacing Materials URGENTLY needs:

CHEMIST - Male or Female, Chemical Engineering or B.S. Chemistry graduate, preferably but not necessarily with 2 years experience in Solid Surface, textile or plastic industry or in polyester resin preparation, color mixing and matching in a manufacturing set-up.

Newly graduates are encouraged to apply.

Submit your resumé with 2x2 colored picture and certificate of employment to:

Unit 610 Futurepoint Plaza
112 Panay Avenue, South Triangle, Quezon City
or
#H-1084 Jenny's Ave., Maybunga, Pasig City

Myriads International Co. Ltd.

Wanted Secretary / Personal Assistant

• Female, single not above 35 years old • Must be fast learner, self motivated • Can work with minimal supervision • at least 3-5 years experience / with background in Accounting • Computer literate • Required to handle Japan and Philippine Accounts

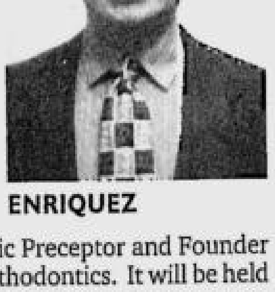
Interested applicants must fax their resumé at 6327697. No telephone inquiries. We'll just call you for a scheduled interview.

Office Address: #85 Country Club St., Cityland Townhouses, Barangay Orambo Pasig City
Tel. # 6327697

Seminar-workshop on positive discipline

IS YOUR CHILD OR STUDENT EXHIBITING aggression, shyness, sibling rivalry, hyperactivity, lying, messiness, refusal to eat, talking back, temper tantrums and the like? Not to worry! These are typical behavioural problems which can be positively dealt with. Learningville Center for Learning and Discovery presents "Like Tasting Sugar: An Experiential Learning of Positive Discipline" on Aug. 25, 8:30 a.m. to 12 nn at Learningville Center, 59 Xavierville Ave. Loyola Heights, Q.C. This is a half-day seminar-workshop for parents, teachers and caregivers which will offer practical information, tools and remedies for the said common behavioral problems of young children which parents and caregivers can apply in the heat of conflicts that arise during the course of normal family life. This will be facilitated by Roy Iranta, counsellor, training specialist and life coach from the Center of Family Ministries (CEFAM) at the Ateneo de Manila University. His approach will be more experiential rather than theoretical and will use a variety of activities during the sessions. Limited slots available. For inquiries and reservations, please call Ms. Edith at 434-35-06 or e-mail learningville@gmail.com.

Orthodontic convention at World Trade Center



ENRIQUEZ

DENTISTREE AND American Orthodontics sponsor a three-hour seminar on latest orthodontic practice. Titled "The Next Step: Orthodontic Appliances and Self-Ligating Brackets," the lecture will be conducted by Dr. Bayani G. Enriquez, Orthodontic Preceptor and Founder of the Academy of Orthodontics. It will be held at Seminar Room B, World Trade Center on October 10. Pre-registration is ongoing, and is already inclusive of the seminar kit, raffle ticket, lunch, and registration to the four-day NADTI Convention and Trade Exhibition.

For more information, contact 02-9264526 or 02-456-0590 or visit Dentistree's website at www.dentistree.com.

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Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

EDGARDO "CHE" V. GUEVARA

May 8, 1929 – August 17, 2007

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 78.

His bereaved wife, **OFELIA**;
children **Joel & Lourdes,**
Letty & Jojo Allado,
Maryjo & Peter Paul Gepuela,
Eddie Boy & Judy, grandchildren;
brother **Virgilio Guevara**; and all relatives
and friends request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains
are at Capilla de San Francisco,
Santuario de San Antonio,
Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment at the Santuario de San Antonio
Crypt after the 3 p.m. Requiem Mass
on Monday, August 20, 2007.

The Board of Directors
Management and Staff
of

INTRA-INVEST SECURITIES, INC.

express their deep sorrow
on the passing of

ATTY. EDGARDO "CHE" V. GUEVARA

President

who peacefully joined our Creator
on August 17, 2007

His cremated remains lie
at Capilla de San Francisco,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park,
Makati.

Interment at the Santuario de San Antonio Crypt
after the Requiem Mass at 3:00 p.m.
on Monday, August 20, 2007.

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
Corinthians 15:22

Ambassador Jose Urbano Fernandez

of Bani, Pangasinan

(November 10, 1934 - August 17, 2007)

Peacefully joined our Lord & his parents
Filemon Sr. & Escolastica Fernandez
on August 17, 2007 in Metro Manila, Philippines.

His loving wife **Lilia**; children **Jobo & Carol**, **Rafael & Kathy** and **Ismael**; grandchildren **Jax & Bianca** and **Isabel**; and his brothers and sisters, in-laws, relatives & friends give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Inc., Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment on August 23, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

The Board of Directors
Management and Staff
of

PENTA CAPITAL GROUP

express their deep sorrow
on the passing of

ATTY. EDGARDO "CHE" V. GUEVARA

Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary

who peacefully joined our Creator
on August 17, 2007.

His cremated remains lie
at Capilla de San Francisco,
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park,
Makati.

Interment at the Santuario de San Antonio Crypt
after the Requiem Mass at 3:00 p.m.
on Monday, August 20, 2007.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

A Message of Thanks

For the friends, relatives, colleagues, and students who offered their good wishes and prayers for

DR. FREDEGUSTO G. DAVID

August 1, 1937 – July 13, 2007

From his family

Wife: **ETHEL**
Children: **FE VISTA (†), EFRAIM** and **NOEMI, VIETREZ** and **RENE, BRYN MAI, FEDEGUSTO GUIDO, FERRI** and **DON, XENIA, AVRIL,** and **CYRIL UCRON**
Grandchildren: **REMO VITTORIO THADDEUS, BARBARA, ROMULUS VIDAL THOMAS, MALKS MOGEN, VYAN MARIE ETHEL,** and **AYLA MARIE MEGAN**
Sisters: **El, Maring** and **Sophie**

Masses will be held for the 40th day of our loved one's passing.

August 22, 2007

9:00 a.m. Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Q.C.
1:00 p.m. Palma Hall Annex, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Q.C.

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635-0219; 635-0220

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

MILAGROS AGUILAR AVERILLA

who passed away in the grace of our Lord
on August 7, 2007
wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who came to pay their last respects and those who sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through Me."
John 14:6

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Editor Aries Espinosa

Araneta Center's Cyber Park, a new BPO hub in QC

TO RESPOND TO THE GROWING INFORmation Technology and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry in the country today, Araneta Center develops its own Cyber Park as part of its 20-year Major Redevelopment Plan.

Consisting of modern 4-6 storey office buildings, the Cyber Park, which is poised to become the busiest technology hub due to its prime location, takes up eight hectares of prime space at the heart of the Araneta Center.

Araneta Center Cyber Park recently welcomed the first tenant in the complex, APAC Customer Services Inc, which has started operations in March. APAC is a leading provider of integrated customer care and acquisition services. The 2,000 seat call center facility is the first building in the Cyber Park and is home to its second site in the country.

APAC is the 2nd BPO to take up offices at the Center. Accenture, a major BPO player with over 100,000 employees worldwide was the first to establish an office at the Gateway Tower.

Another BPO giant Advanced Contact Solutions has made Araneta Center its home. ACS, the first and only listed call center in the Philippine Stock Exchange, opened its sixth call center facility in the country at the Old Rustans Superstore Building in June.

Victor Endaya, president and CEO of ACS Inc. has expressed enthusiasm in launching the ACS site at the Araneta Center. "We are really looking forward to opening our first site here in Quezon City, and I am sure that this will provide more job opportunities for people around the area."

The ACS facility at the Araneta Center will have some 2,000 job openings for call center professionals and administrative positions. On-site recruitment for their Araneta Center site is currently ongoing.

With its growing number of BPO and IT office spaces in its vibrant vicinity, Araneta Center is set to become a self-contained business community that intersperses shopping, dining and entertainment venues with the hustle and bustle of corporate life.

HP GDPC TEAM GETS ISO CERTIFICATION

The Asia Supply Network Solutions - Service Management team of HP GDPC successfully achieved its ISO/IEC 20000 certification, an initiative driven under the center's FY07 Year of Excellence program. The certification of the team was a pilot project that kicked off in July 2007, and culminated in a successful assessment held in May 2007. The scope of the certification was the IT Service Management system that covers the provision of end-to-end supply chain service and support by the HP's Asia SNS SM team in Manila for the supply chain network of a global leader in consumer goods manufacturing. ISO/IEC 20000 is the first international standard for IT Service Management, and is composed of two parts, ISO/IEC 20000-1: Specification and ISO/IEC 20000-2: Code of Practice. The standard is compatible and supports the IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) framework, which is the worldwide standard for outsourced IT service management delivery. The certification is the first of its kind that has been achieved within HP globally, and in the Philippines as well. Posing with the official ISO certificate issued by the British Standards Institute are (from left): project sponsor and applications management service delivery manager Nel Cacnio, internal audit program manager Kay Tarroza, Asia SNS-SM service delivery manager Ana Co, GDPC site director Noel Mendoza, and site quality assurance lead Joseph Villordon. Also included in the ISO project team are Dave Rescober, John Hofilena, Lou Ortega-Rubin, Gerard Cruz, Aileen Mutuc-Florendo, Sarah Mendoza, Eli Gonzales, Erwin Blas, KC Cua, Patrick Cervantes, and Ibong Nepomuceno.

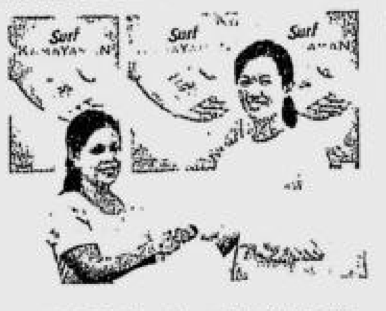
DSAP MOA SIGNING WITH CO-PRESENTORS, MAJOR SPONSOR

The official MOA signing between the Drugstores Association of the Philippines and its Co-Presentors and Major Sponsors for the 11th DSAP National Convention in Cebu was held last July 6, at the Tropezz Restaurant and Bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati City. Present during the signing were officers and representatives of co-presentors: Macropharma, Nestlé Nutrition, Pharex, RHEA, Sel-J/Plethico, Unilab, Unilever Phils, Wyeth, and major sponsor: Zuellig Pharma. The morning event was hosted by DSAP led by its board chair Gloria N. de Chavez and national president Ma. Erlinda B. Pascual (seated 5th and 6th from the left), and this year's convention chair, Rodel M. Vizconde (standing 7th from left). This year's convention, as in the past 10 years will once again prove DSAP's mettle in hosting huge and successful conventions yearly. Approximately 2,000 delegates are expected to attend this year's event. For inquiries on the convention, call the DSAP office at 631-4254 and 633-5253 or e-mail at dsap_office@yahoo.com.

CLEANSAVE, GMA CAVITE SIGN MOA

Walter Echevarria Jr (left) Mayor of Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite and Frank Lubboock (right) chair and CEO of Cleansave Waste Corp sign a MOA for a waste processing plant to be constructed in the Municipality of GMA, Cavite. Under the agreement Cleansave Waste Corp will be putting up this plant under a BOT scheme and the Municipality of GMA, Cavite would provide for all the support that is needed for this waste processing plant. Witnessing the signing, from left, is Rolando Alvaran Vice Mayor of GMA, Cavite and Erickson Coseteng of Cleansave Waste Corp.

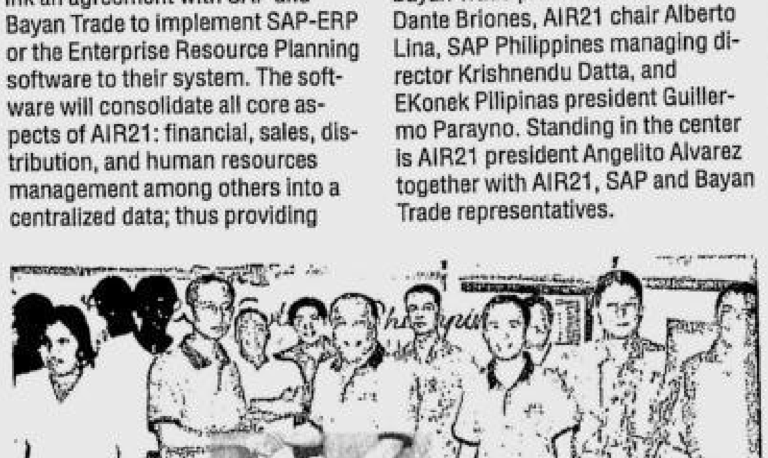
LUCKY 'WAIS' MOTHER WINS IN SURF PROMO



In celebration of Mother's Day, Surf gave thanks to all 'wais' mothers in the Philippines by launching the Surf Kamayaman Promo. And three months after the launch, a lucky 'wais' mother struck it rich by winning the Surf Kamayaman grand prize. Mrs Helen P. Mallari of Quezon City found the Kamayaman chip worth P1 million inside a Surf Blossom Fresh bar. A 'wais' Surf user for many years, she has been buying Surf bars regularly at grocery stores and sari sari stores. She received her cheque on Aug. 6, from the Surf brand team at the Unilever office. The Surf Kamayaman Promo gave Surf users the chance to win cash prizes of P1000, P10,000 and P1 million. Hundreds of Kamayaman chips were hidden in specially-marked Surf packs and 'wais' mothers all over the Philippines had the opportunity to find instant prizes in their favorite laundry products. Almost two hundred lucky 'wais' mothers have won their mother's day prizes from Surf. Prizes can still be redeemed until Aug. 30, 2007. Shown are Helen Mallari with Toni Reyes from Surf brand team.

AIR21, SAP AND BAYAN TRADE INK AGREEMENT

The growing business of providing logistics solutions to all AIR21 clients motivated Airfreight 2100 chair Alberto D. Lina, president Angelito A. Alvarez and their team to ink an agreement with SAP and Bayan Trade to implement SAP-ERP or the Enterprise Resource Planning software to their system. The software will consolidate all core aspects of AIR21: financial, sales, distribution, and human resources management among others into a centralized data; thus providing AIR21 employees real time information while answering the needs of their clients, and maintaining and improving further their customer relation. Seated in front are: (from left) Bayan Trade president and CEO Dante Briones, AIR21 chair Alberto Lina, SAP Philippines managing director Krishnendu Datta, and EKonek Pilipinas president Guillermo Parayno. Standing in the center is AIR21 president Angelito Alvarez together with AIR21, SAP and Bayan Trade representatives.

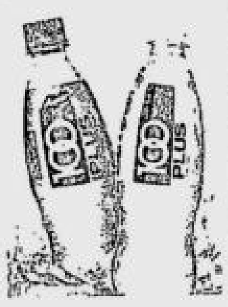


COCA-COLA SIGNS CBA WITH SAN FERNANDO UNION

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc (CCBPI) recently signed a CBA with the San Fernando Dailies Union under IBM (Ilaw at Buklod ng Manggagawa local No. 1). Pictured here are (from left) Alfredo Maranon, president of IBM Local No. 1 and Rone G. Rentoy, corporate labor relations manager, exchanging signed CBA documents, and witnessed by the union officers and the Coca-Cola San Fernando Plant management team

Product FILES

More pleasant air travel with proper hydration



THE ONLY SOLUTION TO FORTIFY YOUR bodily defense during travel is to hydrate well. However, not just any ordinary liquids will do. Water is a good and basic choice, but this may not be enough. The ideal way to hydrate is by consuming an isotonic liquid — a solution that possesses the same concentration of sodium or salt as the normal cells of the body, thereby being absorbed by the body more efficiently and faster. It eliminates physical thirst and dryness but still maintaining other vital body conditions such as electrolyte balance. One such beverage is 100 Plus, an isotonic drink specially formulated to rapidly hydrate the body better. It quickly replaces lost fluids during physical activity or due to atmospheric conditions, and allows the rapid absorption of electrolytes and minerals such as potassium, calcium, sodium, chloride, and phosphates in the human system to keep it in just the right condition. 100 Plus not only replenishes nutrients, but also provides carbohydrates for added energy. This will especially come in handy after the flight, when physical activity is resumed. 100 Plus is ideal for people on the go such as frequent travelers. Keeping well-hydrated may very well be the most important key to physical comfort during long periods of air travel.

Lafarge supports Earthbag School Project

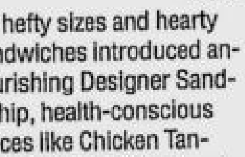
LAFARGE SEMENTO

LAFARGE SEMENTO, the country's cement leader, lends its support to housing proponents and NGOs for the construction of classrooms and a resource center for teaching alternative construction. Through support in the form of donations, Lafarge joins the Akayin ang Bukluran ng Kabataan sa Daigdig (Abakada) Inc and My Shelter Foundation Inc, in bringing the Earthbag Technology System to Barangay Day-asan in Surigao. The Earthbag Technology System is a revolutionary and groundbreaking method that uses on-site earth as its main building component with minimal use of wood, steel and skilled labor in the shortest possible time, costing 40 percent cheaper than conventional classrooms.

Magnolia introduces new ice cream

MAGNOLIA, A TRUSTED NAME IN ICE cream, has brought in to the country King's Chocolate Sundae-licious, to offer consumers with an affordable and delicious dessert. Made from high-quality ingredients, this imported product from Malaysia combines the goodness of vanilla and chocolate ripples to make a delicious sundae. King's Chocolate Sundae-licious comes in 800mL tubs with an introductory price of P98.

Oliver's Super Sandwiches puts on a new look



TO EMPHASIZE ITS COMMITMENT TO giving Filipinos the tastiest and healthiest sandwich meals, Oliver's Super Sandwiches bares a new and fresh look to its outlets and at the same time, provide its most faithful patrons with a new set of food choices for them to enjoy. Known for their scrumptious sandwiches made popular in the country due to their hefty sizes and hearty fillings for over 10 years now, Oliver's Super Sandwiches introduced another set of its popular, healthy yet tasty and nourishing Designer Sandwiches that would surely appeal to the chic and hip, health-conscious crowd of today. With such mouth-watering choices like Chicken Tandoori with Fruit Chutney and Minted Yogurt, Turkey Breast with Spiced Ham and Cranberry Jam, and Roast Beef coupled with Apple Shreds and Waldorf Salad, sandwich lovers are expected to throng to Oliver's to get a sampling of this delectable sandwich lineup. The new set of Designer Sandwiches is offered initially at Oliver's Super Sandwiches' newest branch at the TriNoma Mall, the metropolis' newest and chic shopping destination at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue, and will soon be available in its other outlets in the metropolis.

BITS Clips

UP-Manila Biology Week 2007

THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, COLLEGE of Arts and Sciences of the UP-Manila invites students, teachers, alumni and the public to the 16th Biology Week 2007 with the theme "Global Warming: A Global Warning (Biology at the Forefront of the Global Warming Issue)." The week-long event will kick-off on Aug. 21 with the opening ceremony, Bio-Exhibits, and Bio-Alumni forum; BioQuiz (Inter-High School Biology Quiz), and Bio-Seminar on Global Warming on Aug 22; and Biogyugan, a variety show, on Aug. 24. For inquiries contact professor Marilen M. Parungao at (02)526-5861.

14th National Public Relations Congress

THE 14TH NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS CONGRESS OF THE PUBLIC Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) is set to be held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City on Sept. 26 to 28. The Congress brings together hundreds of PR professionals, experts and advocates from business and industry, government, non-profit organizations, hospitals, schools, hotels and professional services who represent various industries and sectors. PRSP is the country's premiere organization for public relations professionals. Early bird registrants can avail of the special rate (P7,000 only for 3-day congress) until Aug. 31. For details and registration, call 638-0010 and 638-0012 or e-mail to prcongress@prsp.ph or log on to www.prsp.ph.

Wedding Planning Seminar: Season 5

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF WEDDING PLANNERS INC (PAWP), IN cooperation with Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, is giving its 5th comprehensive two-day Basic Course on Wedding Planning and Coordination on Sept. 15 and 16, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. The seminar is replete with valuable information, tips and exercises. The topics and materials are aimed to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to become a professional wedding planner. The course was designed by event planning experts covering every aspect of a wedding, and each topic incorporates their years of experience in the wedding industry. Slots are limited for quality participation. For registration and further information, e-mail pawp2004@yahoo.com; call Celia at 822-6191/0917-792-9161, or Lyn at 0916-677-9983.

The 1st Imcea Casebook now available

FINDING UPDATED REFERENCES ON LOCAL ADVERTISING AND MARketing campaign strategies has always been a challenge. Not anymore. With the launch of the 1st Integrated Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards (Imcea) Case Book, a book that compiles the winning case studies of the 1st Imcea, there is now a collection of 15 case studies that shows the innovative approaches that have had maximum impact on Filipino consumers. The 1st Imcea Case Book features well-crafted campaign strategies of the country's well-known brands. Each case study also describes the market overview, objectives of the campaign, media use, and results. An initiative of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) School of Communication in partnership with the Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores) and BusinessWorld Publishing Corp, the Imcea is the first and only award in the country that honors effective advertising and marketing campaigns that are not only creative but have also yielded great business results for the clients while promoting positive societal values at the same time. The 1st Imcea Casebook is now available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks outlets. The Cacho Publishing House Inc published the book for UA&P.

Acer projector promo for the rainy days

ACER PHILIPPINES POURS ON ANOTHER SPECTACULAR PROMOTION IN appreciation of its customers' unwavering support for its products -- in making Acer a leading name in the local IT industry. From July 20 up to Aug. 31, buyers of Acer DLP projectors anywhere in the Philippines will get to own an Apacer MP3 player with flash drive absolutely free through the Acer Rainy Day promo. In order to qualify, customers only need to present the official receipt issued during the promo period as their proof of purchase, together with a valid identification card when claiming their prize at Acer Philippines' Head Office in Makati. And for those who will claim their prize through a representative, a valid identification card and an authorization letter plus the mandatory documentary requirements are needed when claiming their prize. For provincial buyers, on the other hand, customers can redeem their prize at the reseller store where they bought the Acer DLP projector and present the same documents needed to claim their free MP3 player. For other details about the Acer Rainy Day promo, check out the promo flyers or log on to www.acer.com.ph.

Having the perfect comfort food with Jollibee

SOMETIMES, WHEN SITUATIONS FORCE US TO STAY AT ONE PLACE for a long time, we can't help but feel frustrated. At times like these, it would certainly be good to have some comfort food to give us a boost of energy and cheer us up, such as our hot and fresh favorites from Jollibee. Even if our work requires us to be always on the go, the Express Delivery service will always be there to comfort us, come rain or shine. Just dial 8-7000 to enjoy Jollibee's extensive menu of tasty Filipino food - fast and complete!

JOB Market

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2007
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For jobseekers, log on to:
www. jobmarketonline.com

JOBMarket is exclusively for job advertisements. This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

RATES (R-VAT exclusive)
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Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Find A Career In Here.

As new jobs are created in **Cebu**,
we need the following innovative people to join us:

HARDWARE
Mechanical Engineer
Motion Control Engineer
Advanced Manufacturing Engineer - ME
Hardware Analyst
Electrical Hardware Engineer
PME (Procurement Manufacturing Engineer) / Tooling Engineer
Model Maker
Thermal Engineer
Power Supply Engineer
Product Assurance Engineer
Metallurgist

FIRMWARE
Emulator Firmware Developer
Embedded Firmware Development Engineer
Firmware Development Engineers
Bios/Kernel Developer

SOFTWARE
Software Engineer
Image Science Software Engineer
Software Product Engineer
Software Project Manager
Product Assurance Software Engineer
System Test Team Leads

SHARED SERVICES
Business Control Analyst
Application Support Analysts

INFORMATION DEVELOPMENT
Technical Writers
Technical Service Information Writer
Information Development Planner
Information Localization Project Manager

ADMIN/SUPPORT
Accountant
Environment, Health and Safety Officer
Facilities Engineer
Systems Administrator / IS Engineer
Database Administrator
Asia Pacific HR Specialist - Data Management
Web Designer/Developer

HUMAN RESOURCES
HR Benefits Specialist
Company Nurse

We work together. Seamlessly.

Non-Cebu candidates will be invited to visit our Cebu facility, and if hired, will be entitled to a one-time relocation allowance.

Applications without Transcript of Records will not be considered, and previous candidates need not re-apply. Applicants must be of LEGAL age.

Qualified candidates may E-mail their comprehensive resumé including Transcript of Records (with position applied as subject) to the address below:
lrdchrd@lexmark.com

Lexmark Research and Development Corporation (LRDC) is an innovative R&D company with a passion to excite customers by providing leading-edge products. The company is a fast-growing, integrated global developer and designer of software, firmware, and hardware for printer products of Lexmark International Inc. , which has its headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, U.S.A.

LEXMARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, CIVIL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND AGE.

LEXMARK™
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

JEC

JARDINE ENERGY CONTROL COMPANY, INC.

JEC, Inc. is part of the highly respected Jardine Engineering Group providing a range of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) plus related equipment maintenance, installation and engineering services to major local and multinational companies.

A company fast establishing itself as the market leader with an enviable reputation for quality and service, JEC Inc. embarks on a major expansion program and now requires:

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Registered Electrical Engineer
- Possess technical knowledge and hands-on electrical design and project management, power generation, power distribution, load capacities, specializes in maintenance and testing.
- 3-5 years experience in power generation and distribution (mainly LV & MV).
- In-depth knowledge on PLC monitoring and control systems,
- Develop electrical designs complete with documentation to the stage of project delivery.
- Ability on multi-skill across areas such as HVAC would also be highly regarded.

ELECTRICAL TECHNICIANS
- Experience in utilization, maintenance of wide range Electrical equipment and systems.
- Familiarity and ability to use advanced electrical tools in a safe and efficient manner;
- Ability to correctly interpret and assess diagnostic electrical test results, faults or deficiencies and to provide the necessary remedial actions in an efficient and timely manner.
- At least 3-5 years of relevant practical work experience in installing, servicing, maintaining and repairing electrical equipment and installations.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
- Experience in utilization, maintenance and upkeep of the wide range of Mechanical equipment and systems.
- Good oral and written skills, including ability to prepare concise oral and written documentation, official correspondence and technical reports.
- Excellent mechanical engineering management skills and awareness of the latest technology including proficiency in fault finding using applicable test instruments;
- Ability to correctly interpret and assess diagnostic test results, faults or deficiencies and provide necessary remedial actions in an efficient and timely manner.
- Registered Mechanical Engineer
- At least 3-5 years of relevant practical work experience in installing, servicing, maintaining and repairing mechanical equipment and installations

HVAC TECHNICIANS
- High school diploma or equivalent or special diploma required.
- Five years experience in the installation, operation, repair and maintenance of HVAC/Refrigeration/ Controls systems.
- A one year HVAC/Refrigeration/Controls certificate from a trade school.
- Knowledge of the standards, practices, methods, tools and materials associated with the HVAC/ Refrigeration/Controls trades.

(Please indicate in the subject: **APPLICATION**)

Please send your resumé by post, email or fax to:
SHERYLL G. AURE
222 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Email: **sheryll.aure@jec.com**; Tel No. 8436011 loc 500; Fax No. 8135491

IMMEDIATE HIRING ☎

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES
*College Graduate
*Computer Literate
*Can Work Efficiently & Effectively
*w/ Pleasing Personality

Submit Comprehensive Resumè @

MP Head Office
#168 Mindanao Ave.,
Bahay, Toro Q.C.
Tel: 928-8259

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- Female, between 21-26 years old
- Fine Arts graduate
- With experience in Brand Designing
- Must be knowledgeable in Illustrator and Photoshop
- Must be creative, hardworking, trustworthy and able to work under minimal supervision

Attractive salary & benefits awaits the successful applicant

Please bring resumé with 2x2 picture, transcript of records & portfolio and apply personally at:

Blooming Handkerchiefs Mfg. Corp.
45 Sgt. Rivera St.
Quezon City
(Tel. # 367-2833, 367-3265)

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NEW VISION, EXCITEMENT and
GREATER CHALLENGES...
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BLIMS fine furniture
defining lifestyle

STORE OPERATIONS

Area Managers
Oversee the retail store operations. Motivates store managers and area sales targets.

Branch Managers
(Manila & Cebu)
Manages the retail store operations. Highly motivated, self–disciplined and dynamic.

Store Management Trainees
(Manila, Cebu & Pampanga)
Undergo intensive training in retail operations and understudy to be a Branch Manager.

Category Management Trainees
Undergo intensive training in retail operations particularly on product categories.

Interior Sales Designers
Conceptualize and create store and merchandise displays. Fashionable.

Dealer Coordinator
Look for retail outlets to carry and sell Blims Fine Furniture selection. Futuristic and dynamic.

Architect
BS Architecture Graduate; not more than 35-year old; experience in Retail Store Constructions and wide scope knowledge in constructions materials; know how to do cost estimates and with knowledge in autocadd.

OTHER POSITIONS

Branch Secretary
Female not more than 27-year old. Preferably Computer Graduate. Typing speed of 30-45 wpm. Good verbal and written communication skills. Pleasing personality and with related work experience. With 6 months relevant work experience.

Cashiers
Female, not more than 27-year old. Preferably Business Graduate, with 6 months relevant work experience. Personable and trustworthy.

Loss Prevention Coordinator
Preferably Criminology Graduate. Not more than 30-year old, with one year related work experience gained from a retail/fast food industry. Average communication skills. Hardworking and has keen eye on details.

SUPPORT GROUP

Assistant HRD Manager

•Recruitment & Payroll
Has strong experience in recruitment and payroll. Dynamic, result-driven, and people oriented person.

•Training & OD
Has strong experience in training and organizational development. Knowledge in training design and evaluation programs and implementation.

•Employee Relations
Has strong knowledge in labor laws and other relevant government regulations. Self-driven, proactive, objective and service-oriented.

Auditor
Accounting Graduate. Single; not more than 35-year old. Has 3 years work experience ideally from a retail industry.

Executive Assistant
(Office of the President)
Provides technical support to the President. Good communication skills. Organized and attentive.

OTHER POSITIONS

Audit/Accounting Clerks
Accounting Graduate. Single and not more than 30-year old. Fresh grad. are welcome.

Stockman
Male, not more than 30-year old. Preferably Accounting Graduate. With relevant work experience in warehousing and inventory control.

STORE OPERATIONS and SUPPORT GROUP
may send resume with 2x2 picture to
AUTOMATIC CENTRE
Greenbelt 1 Legaspi Village, Makati City
OTHER POSITIONS
may personally submit his/her resume
with 2X2 picture to
AUTOMATIC CENTRE – HRD Department
167 EDSA, Mandaluyong City
(beside VRPMC formerly Polymedic Hospital)
every Tue and Thu from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon
or email at hrd-blims@nwave.net

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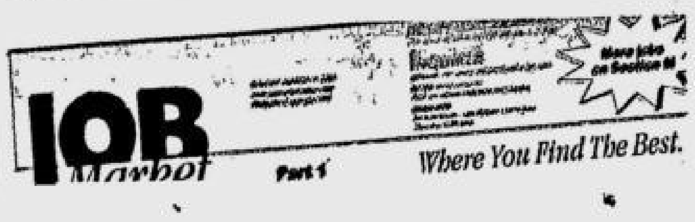

YOUR MEDICAL SKILLS WILL GO A LONG WAY IN PUMPING NEW LIFE TO POOR COUNTRIES.

VOLUNTEER WITH VSO

BE A PART OF GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES.

There are places in the world where there are more sick people than there are healthy ones. Institutions that provide basic health services are barely running with only a handful of local doctors, nurses and medical workers. But with more training and improved systems, they can take bigger steps to improve the health situation.

VSO is working with volunteer doctors, nurses, midwives, and other health professionals in finding lasting solutions to the health crises in Africa and Asia.

Dr. Andrew Vergara, a Filipino volunteer doctor assigned in Malawi, is one of them. He trains health workers, does consultations in the Rumphi District hospital and in the field, and evaluates and monitors medical facilities. He said "If they do things on their own, with us reinforcing and supporting better methods, then they will have faith in themselves. By empowering them is winning more than half the battle to sustainability."

Share your skills now and help change the health picture in countries where these skills are most needed. It is also a rare opportunity to change your life forever, and give back to the Philippines when you return.

We urgently need experienced doctors, nurses/midwives, and other health professionals with background in either clinical work or instruction. The following placements are for immediate departures on September, October and December 2007.

General Practitioners / Specialist in Family Medicine / Internal Medicine / Obstetrics-Gynecology who have clinical work experience in infectious diseases/tropical medicine, public health or who have specialty experience in the implementation of HIV AIDS prevention and Anti Retroviral Programme and/or clinical management of patients/communities afflicted with HIV AIDS.

Specialists in Surgery/Anesthesia/Obstetrics-Gynecology/Pediatrics for hospital, primary care center on capacity building/training placements and in medical school in teaching/lecturing capacities.

Registered Nurses/Midwives who have clinical management and/or clinical instructor experience in maternal and child health, mental health, reproductive health, HIV AIDS either in hospital or community base. Midwives should have completed a college degree in addition to a diploma in midwifery.

Registered Physiotherapists/Occupational Therapists who have experience in teaching or training in a hospital or community-based rehabilitation setting.

You must be a Filipino professional between 25 to 65 years old, with at least three years relevant experience in these fields and able to live and work within a local community either for a short-term or long-term placement on a modest allowance.

Download the VSO application form at **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph.** For further information and inquiries, email us at bahaginan@vsoint.org or call 3746450 to 52 loc 21 or write to us:

The Director
VSO BAHAGINAN
Unit 505 Pacific Corporate Center, 131 West Ave., Quezon City 1105

BAHAGINAN

VOLUNTEER WITH VSO.
THE SKILLS YOU HAVE CAN CHANGE LIVES.

Winrock International
Putting Ideas to Work

Alliance for Mindanao and Multi-Regional Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE 2) Program

Deputy Chief of Party

The AMORE 2 program supports electrification of rural communities using renewable energy systems in Mindanao, Philippines, with a special focus on community and social preparation, training and technical assistance, and renewable energy project development, installation and operation. The partners in the Alliance are the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Mirant Philippines, the Philippine Department of Energy, the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and Winrock International.

Interested candidates should meet all or most of the following requirements:

- ☐ Masters degree in engineering, business or public management, or other relevant profession;
- ☐ At least 10 years field experience in the design and implementation of rural/renewable energy programs, projects and systems;
- ☐ Demonstrated capacity to work effectively as a team member and as a team leader;
- ☐ Familiarity with key government agencies involved in rural development, with experience on USAID-funded projects preferred;
- ☐ Experience managing NGO-led activities that require coordination and collaboration;
- ☐ Knowledge of watershed protection and community-based natural resources management preferred;
- ☐ Thorough understanding of Philippine energy sector issues, including renewable energy-based rural electrification;
- ☐ Experience in designing and implementing community organization, social preparation, and training programs in rural areas;
- ☐ Proven leadership and management skills;
- ☐ Ability to work in a fast-paced environment, under very tight performance schedules;
- ☐ Commitment to AMORE alliance goals of empowering communities and improving lives of people in the ARMM;
- ☐ Willing to travel and/or be posted in Mindanao; and
- ☐ Excellent written and oral communication skills both in English and Filipino.

Applications that include cover letter, resume, salary history and references should be sent to **amore2@winrock.org** and **vpadul@amore.org.ph** by August 25, 2007.

Please visit www.winrock.org and **www.amore.org.ph** to learn more about Winrock International and the AMORE Program.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Nº: FAOPH 07-002
(Re-advertisement of Vacancy Announcement No. FAOPH 07-001)**

Issued on: 19 August 2007
Deadline For Application: 03 September 2007

POSITION TITLE:	**Programme Clerk**	**GRADE LEVEL:**	**G4**
		DUTY STATION:	**FAO Representation-Philippines**
ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT:	**FAO PH**	**DURATION:**	**Fixed-term: 1 year with possible extension**

1. DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) and Programme Assistant, the incumbent will collect information, maintain records and prepare documentation and correspondence pertaining to programme activities. In particular, she/he will:

- Take dictation, and transcribes, ensuring that spelling, punctuation and format are correct; types a variety of material from drafts, printed texts and dictating machines; proof-reads for correctness; operate word processing equipment;
- Assist in collecting, maintaining and processing data and other information on development and/or subject matter activities of the country or area, in particular for agriculture and rural development including fisheries and forestry sectors
- Draft and prepare correspondence related to routine programme/project matters, checking enclosures and addresses;
- Contribute to the monitoring of ongoing projects, with particular reference to budgets and workplans;
- Prepare background material, working papers and tables for briefing and review sessions or meetings; keeps up-to-date current registers and control plans on the status of projects at the formulation, implementation and operational stages;
- Arrange appointments, receives visitors, places and screens telephone calls, responds to routine requests for information;
- Maintain programme records and reference files in prescribed format for subsequent use;
- Take notes at meetings as required;
- Perform other related duties as required.

2. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Education, Knowledge and skills:	Completion of secondary education Typing abilities (35 wpm) and knowledge of modern office procedures. Ability to use word processing equipment and other standard office softwares, such as MS-Excel, PowerPoint, MS-Word. Ability to maintain records and databases.
Experience:	Four years of office experience, including record-keeping and processing of information.
Languages:	Good working knowledge (Level C) of English and limited knowledge of local languages

3. WORK RELATIONSHIPS
Regular internal and external contacts to exchange information and to make arrangements related to the work area.

4. APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES
Correspondence Manual and office procedures. Those activities not completely covered by established guidelines require some interpretation.

5. SUPERVISION EXERCISED and GUIDANCE GIVEN
None

Only applications accompanied by filled FAO Personal History Form (http://www.fao.org/va/adm11e.dot) and received at the following postal/E-mail address or by fax on or before 03 September 2007, will be accepted.
(Those who applied in the previous Vacancy Announcement (No. FAOPH 07-001) need not apply as their applications will be automatically considered.)

FAO Representation in the Philippines
29TH Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City
Fax Nos: (63-2) 9010361 / 9010362
E-mail: FAO-PH@fao.org
(Indicate "Application (Programme Clerk)" in the Subject

** Only shortlisted applicants will be acknowledged*

CASFER

JUNIOR SALES/MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any 4-year course

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- BSBA-Major in Accounting
- Must have knowledge in BIR/SSS compliance requirements

PURCHASING ASSISTANT
- BS Business Administration

MANAGEMENT/ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- BSBA-Major in Mangement/Office Administration

All applicants should be:
A. Female, single, and preferably not more than 28 years old
B. With at least 6 months experience
C. Must be proficient in oral/written communication and computer literate

Apply personally at:
CASFER Advertising (DIRECT HIRING)
453 Boni Avenue Brgy. New Zaniga, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos. 535-1288, 534-0087, 534-9241

ACCOUNTANTS IN TAX PRACTICE

Banaria, Banaria & Co., CPA's is in need of Accountants in Tax Practice

- CPA has advantage
- At least one year experience in taxation work
- Not more than 30 years old

Apply in person during office hours at:

No. 10 Scout Bayoran St., South Triangle,
Quezon City (back of Rembrandt Hotel)
Bring Bio-data/other pertinent documents.

We are looking for:

SM San Lazaro

- **Asst. Cook/Kitchen Helper**
- **Sushi Cook (Male)**
- **Waiter/Waitress**
- **Dispatcher (Female)**

Applicants must be at least High School grad • Bet. 22-35 yrs. old • w/ or w/o exp. • physically fit • pleasing personality • service-oriented • reliable

Mail resume with latest photo to:
Admin Dept Head
1800 A. Mendoza St., Sampaloc,Manila 1008
or email to vic_smi@philonline.com.ph

PAN PACIFIC
Manila

BE A PROFESSIONAL BUTLER!

Pan Pacific Manila, the only 5-star De Luxe Hotel in Manila that provides Full Butler Service, is in need of dynamic individuals for the following positions:

EXECUTIVE CHEF

The candidate will be in-charge of developing and supervising Food Production for the outlets and banquet catering. **Banquet Operations** experience preferred. He/she should have good managerial and organizational skills, creative and quality-focused.

- Abreast with global and local food service trends
- 3-5 Years experience in related field preferably in a 5-star Hotel
- Creative and innovative in terms of concepts, ideas and market intelligence
- Strong leadership skills, both in operational and administrative aspects

ASSISTANT MANAGER/MANAGER FOR HOUSEKEEPING

The person will assist the Executive Housekeeper in the day to day operation. Responsibilities include inspection of guest rooms and public areas, training of Butlers, and overseeing of section/s of the Floors and Housekeeping Department as may be assigned by the Senior Operations Manager.

- Should have a strong background in a 5-star Hotel
- At least 2 years supervisory/managerial position in related field
- Should have an eye for detail, organized and strong leadership skills
- Graduate of any 4-year Business course

FOOD AND BEVERAGE CAPTAIN WAITER

Responsibilities include overseeing any type of function or event or an outlet, coordination with Banquet Sales and Kitchen to ensure that the products and services in all functions, outlets and events are impeccable.

- Abreast with global and local food service trends.
- Has the ability to coordinate, teach and implement F&B/Banquet competencies and functions.
- Graduate of any four-year course.
- Male or female with 3 years extensive experience in same position.

SALES COORDINATOR

- Has experience on similar position gained from the hotel, preferably in banquets
- With good computer skills
- Team player and results oriented
- Graduate of any four-year course with excellent communication and interpersonal skills

BUTLERS FOR FRONT OFFICE, FLOORS & HOUSEKEEPING AND FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Candidates must possess excellent oral and written communication skills
- Very pleasing personality with a service mindset
- Ability to work as a team member
- Preferably with overseas experience
- Graduate of any four-year course
- For Lobby Butlers, experience in the areas of Reception, Reservations and Cashiering is an advantage

View further details and apply online at
www.panpacific.com/currentopening.html

Mail your comprehensive resume to
The People Innovation & Education Team
M. Adriatico St., cor. Gen. Malvar St. 1004 Malate, Manila

You may also send your applications to pi.mnl@panpacific.com
View further details and apply online at
www.panpacific.com/currentopening.html
Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.

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JGC PHILIPPINES, INC. *Excellence...our Practice...our Commitment*

We are the biggest engineering, procurement and construction company (EPC) in the Philippines. JPHIL is a subsidiary of JGC Corp. based in Yokohama Japan which is one of the top international contractors in engineering design.

ISO 14001 SGS UKAS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 005
CERTIFICATE NO. GB06/69881

JOIN our team and have the chance to experience global engineering, travel opportunity, long-term employment & attractive benefits

•EXPERIENCED ENGINEERS (Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, ECE & Chemical)

Has work experience in design engineering in an oil and gas, petrochemical or power plant industry. With adequate engineering design capability and design skills.

•Sr. BUILDING STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Can prepare structural design criteria, specifications, bill of materials/ quantities, calculations & drawing.

•CONTRACTS ENGINEERS

Has work experience in Contracts Management, Quantity Surveying or Cost Estimation. Preferably gained from refineries or industrial-plant construction.

•SAFETY ENGINEER

Has work experience as safety engineer in a construction project. Must be accredited by DOLE-BWC.

•PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Has work experience in a Construction environment. Has strong background in the implementation of security, company and site policies and procedures. Can effectively interact with the Client Management to maintain customer satisfaction.

•SR. MATERIAL CONTROLLER

Has work experience in material control management.

•HRD OFFICERS/ ASSISTANTS

Graduate of BS Psychology, Business Administration or related courses. With solid work experience in all facets of HR preferably in compensation, benefits planning administration, labor relations and recruitment.

•GENERAL SERVICES ASSISTANT

Has experience in building and facilities maintenance, subcontractor management, dormitory, shuttle service & security administration.

•DEVELOPER

Graduate of BS Computer Science or related course. Has experience in system development using VB6, .Net, Java or similar development tools. Knowledge in Lotus Notes and Oracle is an advantage.

•SITE SUPERVISORS (Palawan & Bataan)

- **Piping Works & pipe support pre-commissioning**
- **Rotary machinery works**
- **Painting & Insulation works**
- **Civil, engineering & construction works**

•WAREHOUSE MAN (Palawan)

With at least 3 years experience in construction industry/power plant and knowledge in CMMS & PRONTO system is an advantage

•SECRETARIES/ CLERKS

*Graduate of Engineering course in any field with 5~10 years related work experience is preferred for all positions except for HR, Developer, Secretaries/Clerks and Warehouseman.

*Fresh Engineering graduates are also encouraged to apply.

Applicants are requested to APPLY ON-LINE at www.jgc.com.ph click careers or send resumes to **jgcphil_hrd@yahoo.com.ph** or visit us at 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL and MEDICAL CENTER

286 BLUMENTRITT STREET, STA. CRUZ, MANILA

is presently in need of the following:

(1) EDP HEAD
(1) JR. INTERNAL AUDITOR
(3) PHARMACISTS
(5) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
(1) RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST
(2) LABORATORY AIDES

Please bring the following: Resumé, 2x2 Colored Picture, Character References with contact #, NBI or Police Clearance, Board Rating, PRC ID, Board Certificate, Transcript of Records, Diploma and personally submit together with the original documents to the Personnel Office, Ground Floor, Main Building or e-mail us at **cghpersonnel@yahoo.com.ph**.

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2 Female Sales Supervisors
10 Female Sales Representatives

- *Ages 25-35 Single*
- *College Graduate*
- *Excellent English Communication Skills*
- *Personable • Aggressive • Sales Oriented*
- *Highly Organized*
- *5'4" Minimum Height*

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SM Megamall Branch, 5th Floor Building B, from July 30 to September 15, 2007.
For ad placements please call 6350219, 6350220 or 8978808.

STOLT-NIELSEN TRANSPORTATION GROUP, INC.

is urgently in need of a

Steel Welding Inspector

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Preferably male, not over 35 years old
- Must be a licensed mechanical engineer or naval architect or naval engineer
- Preferably with shipyard experience
- Computer literate

Main Duties and Responsibilities

To study the Newbuilding Specification, approved drawings, NDT plans and make corrections as necessary after being confirmed by the site manager

To check steel and outfitting details upon arrival to the yard. Collect data of such deliveries and keep a log of the arrived goods.

To enforce that the handling, forming and welding of all steel in work shops and on board the ships are following the newbuilding specification, approved drawings and the very best ship building standards to the fullest extent

To attend courses at makers as directed by site manager.

To attend all inspections called for by the yards QA Department or as directed by Site Manager.
To keep a log of all witnessed tests carried out.

To act as an instructor on handling of stainless steel for the ships staff upon their arrival at the building yard.

To keep a daily log of all activities going on regarding the steel work and outfitting.
Submit weekly reports and summary reports for each ship in writing to the site manager.
Submit non confirmation reports to site manager on yards standard forms for approval

To participate in meetings with the building yard and subcontractors regarding work procedures in all steel related areas as directed by the site manager.
Suggest improvements to work procedure and updating of newbuilding specification.

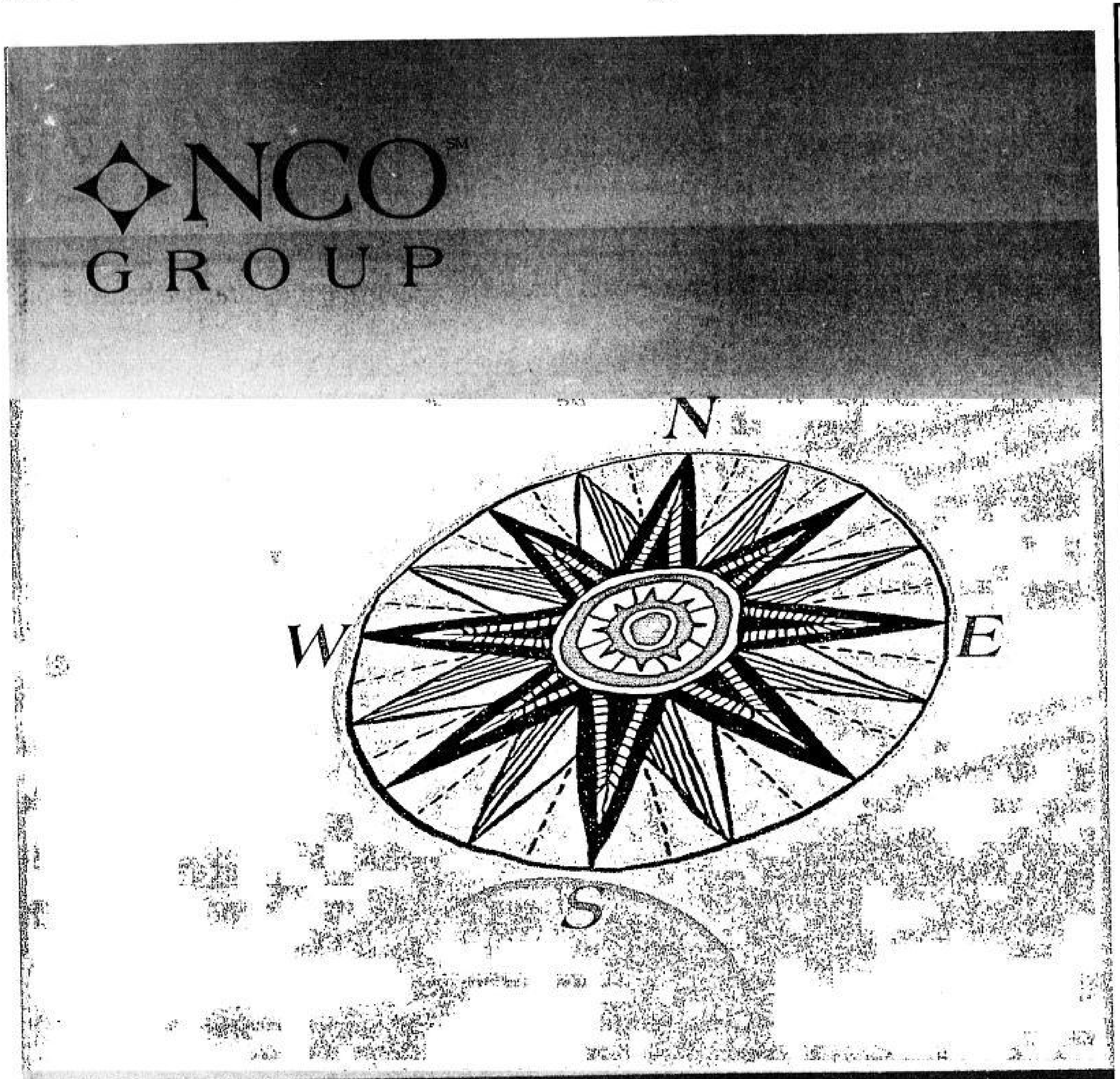
To complete unspecified assignments and projects as directed by the site manager

To seek and maintain good relationship with the building yards personnel, subcontractors and others involved in the ship building project.

To work in a team spirit, with full cooperation with the other members of the site staff and in an understanding of all activities to be performed at the building site for a successful completion of the project.

Please send your application letter and updated resume (with work experiences stating duties and responsibilities), transcript of records, diploma and recent 2 x 2 picture and contact numbers (Landline or mobile) to chortaleza@sntg.com or apply in person at:

Training Department
3rd Floor Don Chua Lamko Bldg.
L. P. Leviste corner H.V. dela Costa St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City



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We are also looking for the following:

IT Manager • Telecom Analyst • Windows NT Systems Administrator • IT Operator Data Network Analyst • MIS Developer • Operations Manager • Team Managers • Trainer

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Quezon City
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manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com

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terry s.a.

havaianas DAVID & GOLIATH T-box

Terry S.A. Inc., the exclusive distributor of **HAVAIANAS, DAVID & GOLIATH, and T-BOX** in the Philippines, invites highly competent and results-oriented candidates to be part of its team as:

BRAND ASSISTANT - HAVAIANAS

Primary Functions & Responsibilities:

- Support the Brand Manager in all aspects of marketing the brand
- Generate and analyze sales reports and create recommendations and action plans based on results
- Closely work with the distribution network nationwide in varied aspects
- Interact with customers for inquiries, comments and other components of good customer service
- Execute simple yet crucial tasks related to the brand on a day-to-day basis

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Marketing or Business Management from a reputable university is preferred
- At least 6 months experience in brand management. Fresh grads with eagerness to learn are welcome
- Knack for Marketing Public Relations, Events, and Advertising is preferred
- Ability to work under minimal supervision with exceptional oral and written communication skills
- Proactive and creative; has strong strategic, analytical, and decision-making skills
- "Hands-on approach" to business; very flexible and not reluctant to multi-task
- Outstanding interpersonal skills; able to work well with a team
- Computer literate; knowledgeable in Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Adobe Photoshop.

INVENTORY SPECIALIST

Primary Functions & Responsibilities:

- Reports to the Accounting Manager; the Inventory Specialist works with a broad knowledge of accounting principles and procedures to oversee all aspects related to inventory
- Assist with establishing new policies and procedures related to inventory
- Perform month-end accounting activities, including reviewing and analyzing all inventory related entries to the ledger and financial statements to provide accurate inventory valuation and reporting
- Manage offsite inventories and semi-annual company-wide physical inventories
- Monitor manual & system purchase orders and receipts; Analyze and reconcile inventory discrepancies
- Perform special projects under the direction of the Accounting Manager

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree major in Accountancy; 1-2 years experience in retail or distribution is preferred
- Initiative to develop and improve processes; Flexibility and desire to grow with the company
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Excellent in Microsoft Excel; Ability to effectively multi-task and meet deadlines

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST

Primary Functions & Responsibilities:

- Manage the front desk in all aspects including receiving phone calls, visitors, packages, etc...
- Assist all the departments in admin work and other tasks that may be required
- Assist the HR Manager with tasks that include but are not limited to administrative activities

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Female, between 20 to 25 years old
- College graduate; Fresh graduates with eagerness to be trained are welcome to apply
- Excellent oral and written communication skills; Fluent in English and Filipino
- Computer literate with emphasis on Microsoft Office
- Excellent interpersonal skills with ability to deal with all levels of employees
- Multi-tasker, fast learner, systematic, open-minded, efficient and can work with minimal supervision

Please submit your resume to **Eleanor A. Chua**, HR/Admin Manager, 1902 88 Corporate Center, Valero cor Sedeño St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email len@havaianasphilippines.com. Indicate desired position as subject of your e-mail.

Job Openings for a US-based Company

We are a fast-growing newsletter publisher in worldwide finance. Our company recognizes staff as our most valuable assets; therefore we are committed to provide you with a career that you will be proud of as you will have the opportunity to learn about the stock market, stocks, and options from some of the wisest financial minds in the world.

We invite all self-motivated and competent individuals who are looking to work for a dynamic, challenging, but rewarding career to apply.

Call center agents (3)

- Excellent English communication skills, both written and spoken
- Strong sense of responsibility with positive attitude and helpful disposition

Call monitoring associates (2)

- Multi-tasking, good-listening, average-typing, good spoken and written English skills
- Quality assurance, BPO, and customer service background is a plus
- Data-entry, proof-reading, and business writing skills is also a plus
- Working experience with US or other foreign nationalities is preferred

E-publishers (2)

- Has outstanding skills in HTML, CSS and Adobe Photoshop
- Well-informed in the ever-changing web standard technologies
- Good spoken and written English skills

I.T. specialist (1)

- Must have a very good sense in troubleshooting and administering Windows networks and peripherals
- Knowledge in Linux operating systems is a plus

All applicants must be willing to work on rotating and shifting schedules and have high-stress tolerance, able to demonstrate excellent attendance, is below 30 years of age, and willing to learn and adapt to occasional operational changes.

Interested applicants may submit, email, or fax their updated resumés (indicate the position you are applying for) to:

Human Resource and Administration Department
Pacific Business Group Limited
26th Floor, Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200
E-mail: **apply@pbgroupltd.com**
Fax: (632) 7506496

Chief of Party

Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro)

University Research Co. (URC) seeks a Chief of Party for its USAID-funded Health Promotion and Communication Project (HealthPro) in the Philippines. This project collaborates with the Department of Health and local institutions to assist Local Government Units in twenty nine provinces in the promotion of healthy behaviors in the country. Responsibilities include:

i) Provide overall strategic and managerial leadership of the project in collaboration with all of the major stakeholders;
ii) Provide management oversight on all project activities ensuring that they stay relevant to the goals of the project;
iii) Assist in the identification of all project technical assistance needs required to achieve the expected outputs of the Contract;
iv) Develop scopes of work, recruitment of consultants, and execution of technical assistance contracts;
v) Design management systems with standard operating procedures; and
vi) Operationalize an annual project planning cycle which formulates comprehensive annual contract workplans and budgets in accordance with the USAID annual planning cycle and assures timely disbursement of funds.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 10 to 15 years of solid international experience in managing large-scale health promotions and behavior change communication projects;
- Advanced degree in communication, social and behavioral sciences; or other related fields, including health sciences or public health supplemented by a degree in mass media or communication;
- At least 10 years of documented experience in relevant communication work particularly in the development and implementation of local BCC/IPC strategies, institutional development and capacity building, and working with mass media companies in the Philippines and other developing countries;
- Successful prior experience in directly advising high-level national and local government officials and civil society leaders, preferably in the Philippines;
- Experience in managing donor-funded programs and working with USAID and other donors preferred;
- Familiarity and understanding of health issues including health promotions and behavior change communication concerns in health;
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to interact with government officials and international donors;
- Proven dynamic and strategic leadership.

Application Instructions:

Send application letter and CV to: **gperla@urc-chs.com** by August 25, 2007. No telephone inquiries, please.

The British Council connects people worldwide with learning opportunities and creative ideas from the UK and builds lasting relationships between the UK and other countries.

We are interested in filling the post of:

Examinations Services Assistant (Ref: ESA-07-01)

This post will provide effective service support to the Examination Services Department.

The successful applicant must be a college graduate and should be able to demonstrate:

- achievement (ability to get things done)
- team working
- flexibility
- professional confidence
- strong customer service orientation
- intermediate level IT literacy
- administrative skills

It is essential that an applicant has excellent oral and written communication skills in English. All applicants should have at least two (2) years relevant work experience. Previous employment by an international organisation is desirable.

For full information and to download an application form, please visit our website

www.britishcouncil.org.ph

Completed application forms should be sent to HR@britishcouncil.org.ph indicating subject reference number. For applicants without access to the Internet, application forms will be available at British Council Knowledge & Learning Centre, 10th Floor, Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City.

No further documentation need be attached.

Closing date: 9AM on 28 August 2007

BRITISH COUNCIL

Bayer CropScience

BAYER

Our Bioscience Group is in need of:

Hybrid Seed Production Manager-Mindanao

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:

- *Degree in Agriculture, preferably Major in Agronomy*

Experience:

- *Technical and practical knowledge in Rice Hybrid Seed Quality and in Hybrid Seed Production (Field, Plant Processing and Storage)*
- *Extensive experience in Seed Technology and Seed Quality Testing*

Skills:

- *Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills*
- *Well organized and good analytical thinking*
- *Excellent communication skills and computer literate*
- *Hard worker and pioneering attitude*

Other Qualification:

- *In his 30 's.*

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES are requested to email their resume with pictures at cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, and Calamba City not later than **August-22, 2007**.

ARE YOU A GAMER?

WE NEED TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS FOR A GAMING CONSOLE

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Aug 19 10am - 3pm Level 4 Job1 Global Area, New Farmers Plaza, Araneta Center

Aug 21 9am - 2pm SACHI Japanese Cuisine Araneta Coliseum, Araneta Center

Aug 24-25 10am - 3pm 3/F Activity Center, Ali Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao

Aug 28 9am - 2pm RASA Restaurant, Beside Greengate Araneta Coliseum , Araneta Center

NCO℠ GROUP

CALL CENTER

Qualifications:

Good English
Communication Skills
Computer Literate
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Coun. Candy Medina
Coun. Bayani Hipol
Coun. RJ Belmonte
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4/F Eugenio Lopez Jr Communications Center, ABS-CBN, Mother Ignacia Ave., Q.C
Tel. Nos. 981-7564; 981-7585; 981-7586 Recruitment Mobile: 0919-7137777

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OUTBOUND SALES AGENTS
TEAM LEADERS
CALL CENTER DIRECTOR
QUALITY ASSURANCE SPECIALIST

Support:

PROJECT RECRUITERS
LEADERSHIP AND DEV'T. TRAINER

Qualifications:

For Operations: At least 6 months call center experience handling international accounts
For Support: At least 1 year of experience in the same capacity.

Send your resume to:
careers.agent@acquireap.com for Agent positions
careers.nonagent@acquireap.com for Non Agent positions
or Log on to:
www.acquireasiapacific.com

ACQUIRE Asia Pacific

WANTED

TELCO ENGINEERS

Male or Female, Graduate of ECE, COE, EE or any related IT course
Knowledge in RF, Wireless Broadband & Wimax w/ at least 2 yrs. experience in related field
Excellent in oral and written communication skills

COMPUTER TECHNICIANS

Male or Female, Graduate of 2-year computer technical course, Computer Literate
Knowledge in upgrading communications equipment (i.e. canopy devices) an advantage

ADMIN/CLERK

Male or Female, Graduate of any business course or any related degree
Knowledgeable in logistics and inventory, preferably with experience

ELECTRICIANS

Graduate of vocational or technical course, Computer Literate
Possesses Certificate of Training from TESDA or MERALCO
Willing to be assigned in Cavite

MECHANICAL /ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS

Graduate of any vocational related technical course:
Computer Literate, Willing to be assigned in Cavite
Knowledge in repair and maintenance of air conditioner and generators is an advantage

WASTE WATER TECHNICIANS

Must have experience in waste-water treatment facilities similar to that of industrial companies
Willing to be assigned in Cavite

ALL AROUND TECHNICIAN/UTILITY MAN

Must have experience in carpentry, masonry, plumbing and painting works
Knowledge in electrical work is an advantage, Willing to be assigned in Cavite

All interested applicants should submit CVs/resume with ID photos to:

OLIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES, INC.
Unit 403 Alexander House, 132 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village Makati City 1229
Telephone Numbers: 817-5832; 817-0492; 759-2329
Or email your CVs/resume to: hrd@olive.com.ph or olive.maintenance@olive.com.ph

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A prestigious Group of Companies engaged in land development, housing, agri-based industries, public transportation, security services and other corporate activities needs urgently:

PARA-LEGAL STAFF male or female who are holders of Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree; senior law students will also be considered.

LEGAL ASSISTANT male or female, college graduate. Computer literate and well-organized. Previous experience will be an advantage.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT female, with at least 2 years experience.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES male or female, graduate of any business course from reputable schools. Fresh graduates who are fast learners, dynamic, aggressive, with initiative and drive to attain success are preferred.

ACCOUNTING STAFF male or female, Accounting graduate, with previous experience preferred. Can work with minimum supervision.

RECEPTIONIST female, at least college level. With pleasing personality, communication skills, computer literate and can type.

Compensation is highly competitive and negotiable based on qualifications and/or experience.

Send application with resume to P.O. Box No. 01, Salcedo Village, Brgy. Bel-air, Makati City, Philippines or email to ara@info.com.ph

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WANTED

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- male
- at least 25 years old
- proficient in oral & written communication
- vibrant, workaholic, energetic & trustworthy
- graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- with high scholastic standing
- can work with minimum supervision
- with at least 2 years supervisory experience
- CPA preferred but not necessary

Interested applicants may apply in person with your bio-data/latest picture & other credentials to:

HALINA HOTEL
54 Libertad St., Pasay City
(in front of DFA)
look for Jasmin Nuñez

An established Medical Clinic based in Marikina is in need of:

SONOGRAPHER

- **Licensed Professional with minimum experience**
- **preferably female, not more than 40 years old**
- preferably a resident of Marikina, Pasig, Quezon City, San Mateo-Montalban, Cainta, Taytay or Antipolo
- computer literacy an advantage

X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST

- FEMALE/MALE
- Licensed Professional with minimum experience
- preferably a resident of QC and Eastern Mtr. Mla.

SONOLOGIST/RADIOLOGIST

- FEMALE
- Licensed Professional with minimum experience
- preferably a resident of QC and Eastern Mtr. Mla.

2-D ECHO TECHNOLOGIST

- Licensed Professional with experience
- preferably a resident of QC and Eastern Mtr. Mla.

Please send your resumé with picture to:

GOOD SHEPHERD
Laboratory and Health Diagnostics Services, Inc.
19 Bayan-Bayanan Ave., Concepcion, Marikina City 1800
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- Must have a bachelor's degree.
- Must be able to communicate on a corporate level.
- Must be assertive, proactive, and function independently.
- Must be able to work from home.

Please email Resume & Cover Letter to:
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Candidates should meet the following minimum criteria:

1) Deck Officer Class 1 - Master with tanker experience
2) Possess an existing Pilotage License
3) Age below 55

Excellent remuneration with good long term contract terms will be offered. Apply for immediate employment or join later. Several vacancies exist. Training for pilotage port will be given.

All applications will be treated with highest confidentiality. Send applications to:

Email - The General Manager "shipmanager@gmail.com"
or by

Mail - C/O Unit GB MACRIMA Building,
EDSA corner Escuela Street,
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Telephone (trunkline): +63 2 8821480
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3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. **CV Anesthesia Division**
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III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCIES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. **Nuclear Medicine Division**
II. **Biological & Clinical Laboratory Division**
III. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
IV. **1 Year Fellowship Program**
   1. Radiology
   2. Nuclear Medicine
   3. Biological & Clinical Laboratory

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2007
- Academic Year 2008 starts on January 1, 2008

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer and/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" colored picture.

Please address your communications to:

ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
The Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela O. Rivera or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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PROGRAM MANAGER NEEDED

CHF International, a non-profit international development organization with headquarters in the U.S., is in urgent need of a **Program Manager** who will provide day-to-day programmatic oversight of the implementation of an Information System Project for its partner in the Philippines.

Minimum requirements for the position are as follows:

- At least 1-2 years of strong management experience in development and administration of a web-based database system
- Preferably had been involved in a full software development lifecycle (SDLC) of an enterprise application project using SQL and .Net applications
- A degree in Business, Engineering, or Computer Science, preferably with an advanced degree in business management
- Detail-oriented with expertise in working through issues with stakeholders and technical staff to ensure that projects are successful
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and proven experience working with all levels of staff including executive level management
- Experience in budget planning, resource allocation, and project tenders
- Strong leadership skills and initiative
- Proficiency with Microsoft Project
- Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, a plus

Letters of interest together with resumes may be submitted in electronic format to chfphil@eastern.com.ph or faxed to (02) 914-4158 not later than August 27, 2007. Please limit letter of interest together with resumé to 7 pages.

CORPORATE TRAINERS
- Have developed and conducted training modules on any of the following:
  - Effective Management
  - Strategic Leadership
  - Customer Service
  - Corporate Values and Ethics
  - Teambuilding
  - Business Communication
  - Sales and Marketing
- Able to facilitate interesting and engaging discussions

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work flexible hours
- Teaching experience an advantage

ACADEMIC TUTORS
- Graduates or students or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle only
- Have good rapport with young people

LECTURERS
- Will lecture on Math or Science or Language, Reading, or General Information
- Honor graduates or teachers of UP, Ateneo, and La Salle, or Bar or board topnotchers; or law or medicine graduates and students with outstanding scholastic records only

MANAGERS/MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- With at least 1-2 years supervisory experience in business management
- With excellent communication and organizational skills

TRAINING / ACADEMIC COORDINATOR
- With at least 6 months administrative experience

SALES EXECUTIVES *w/ experience*
- Very good communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Willing to travel and work flexible hours

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS
- Graduates of Mass Comm, English, Law, Management, Business Admin; or MBA students
- With relevant writing/editing experience
- Perfect English skills

WEB-BASED MARKETING COORDINATOR
- Graduate of any business-related course
- With excellent communication and organizational skills
- Computer literate and internet-savvy

PART-TIME WRITERS AND EDITORS
PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR
ACADEMIC CONTENT DEVELOPER
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHERS
PROJECT COORDINATOR
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For faster results, use video resume at www.vidres.net

AHEAD LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC.

MAIN: FBR Building, 317 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City • **GREENHILLS:** Providence Building, 55 Annapolis Street • **ROBINSONS GALLERIA:** Park Avenue (near Equitable Bank), Ortigas Center • **ALABANG:** Prime Center, Prime cor Enterprise Sts., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang • **DAGUPAN:** De Venecia Road, Lucao District

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

BE PART of a Manufacturing company designing Jigs for Automotive parts and assembly line

DESIGNERS

- Male/Female, 21 to 36 years old
- Degree Holder of Mechanical Engineering / Computer Science Course
- Proficient in the following:
  AUTOCAD
  CATIA
  IGRIP
  ROBOCAD
- Background in Automotive production
- Must know how to sketch. Good conceptualizing ability
- Office in Metro Manila

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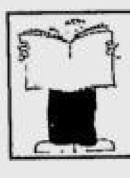

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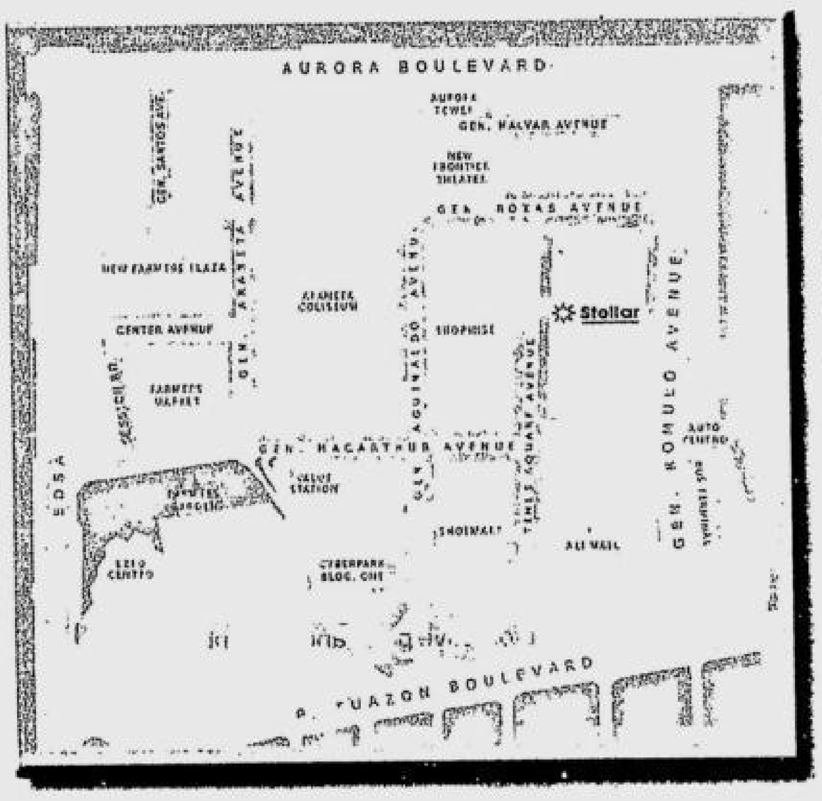

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Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably BS Secretarial Course
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- Knowledge of basic office and e-mail software
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Qualifications:

- College graduate
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- Familiar with publishing industry

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Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate preferably Certified Public Accountant
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- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation and Labor Laws

Computer Engineer

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- Knowledge in network

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
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Get more than a break from your training program

Necessary tool that should increase employee satisfaction and profitability

By Roel A. Andag
Contributor

TRAINING IS A CRITICAL UNdertaking. Serious companies train their employees thoroughly, even sending them abroad to learn from their foreign counterparts. Three crucial drivers compel companies to invest in training: efficiency (to improve behavior, relationships and processes), effectiveness (to develop skills, knowledge and potential), and economy (to enhance productivity, competitiveness and motivation).

An expert once advised that a company's training investment should never be less than three percent of total payroll. Competitive companies view training as a necessary investment. As such, the company expects training programs to result in organizational profitability and employee satisfaction.

Employees, however, do not necessarily view company-sponsored training through the same businesslike lens. Some consider training as a brief vacation—a break from the frenetic office environment. Others attend training merely to comply with company requirements. Still others begrudge attending training, feeling that they have been uprooted from their real priorities. Employees oftentimes fail to relate training with company objectives. Negative attitude impedes learning thus defeating the purpose of training.

The cost can be staggering when this paradigm gap is not addressed. The company squanders resources while the mediocre employee coasts along. Both parties lose opportunities in the process. Addressing this handicap can be challenging and at the same time rewarding. The first logical step is for both employer and employee to jointly agree that optimizing training is a joint responsibility.

Here are mutually reinforcing tips for both sides.

Career stewardship

Adopt correct attitude. The modern worker owes it to himself to advance his career. Continuous learning is the most effective way of doing this.

Training is an opportunity to learn new things. Based on the training program, list your learning expectations. Proceed to training, anticipating to discover and to explore, conscious that you will gain value from the exercise.

Understand the purpose of the training. It is not enough that you know the venue, schedule, program and parking lot location. As soon as you receive the memo for you to attend training, level off with the human resource manager as to why you are being sent and jointly specify subsequent management expectations.

Focus. Be attentive. Listen to what the trainer is sharing. Record your reflection and insights on a training diary. Documentation is very important. If you get distracted by noisy participants, pass them a polite note or take them aside during break time to verbalize your concern. If this does not work, approach the trainer.

Ask questions. Ask the trainer and fellow participants. The objective is to clarify some points and to learn more, not to challenge the intellect of the trainer or to embarrass him. Also dare to ask yourself. How does the training relate to your own situation? How can you apply what you are learning? Adopting an inquisitive mind deepens analysis.

Participate actively. Contribute to the discussion but be careful not to dominate it. Share an experience related to the training subject. Make sure that it is not merely random storytelling. Be able to establish relevance by emphasizing ideas and lessons learned. Join games and workshops, they are opportunities to process learning and to relate with other participants. Overcome shyness and control unhealthy aggressiveness.

Apply what you have learned. Be accountable: volunteer to cascade to your colleagues what you have learned, report to your boss and the HR department your observations and plans on how to apply your learning. Part of career stewardship is internalizing what was learned during training.

Use the tools provided by the trainer. Digest, apply, test and improve on the ideas offered.

Stimulate learning

Create a training calendar. Do this annually as the New Year starts.

Capitalize on the heightened sense of renewal, vigor and commitment. A training calendar sets schedules, primes employees and guides budgeting.

Dedicate quality time to this activity. It is advisable to make everyone participate to enhance employees' sense of ownership of the process. When finalized, post the detailed training calendar in conspicuous locations around the workplace and in the company intranet.

Run a responsive training program. This is congruent with the training calendar. Conduct a quick, company-wide training need analysis through an online or paper survey.

This bottom-up approach will cement the connection between the lineup of training courses, company objectives and employee needs. Review the training program regularly. It should be dynamic enough so as to accommodate emerging developments.

Deliver impact. See to it that training courses create the desired beneficial effect on the individual, the business unit and the company. It would be better if the impact is measurable. Pretest the responsiveness of a training course by determining its design and overall objectives.

Training courses should be creative, trainers need to possess the required skills set and venues conducive to learning.

Promote a learning culture. Encourage employees to initiate training on their own. Make them proactive in looking for appropriate training courses they want to attend.

Affirm those who undergo training by providing opportunities to immediately apply what they have learned.

Adult learning theory says that an individual retains 80 percent of what he has learned if he is allowed to immediately practice what was taught. Monitor and evaluate improvement with tools such as First 100 Days post-training reports and performance appraisals.

Prep the trainees. HR should arrange a pre-training briefing to clarify expectations. This is to reiterate the company's learning culture.

Be inclusive. Ditch the practice of sending only favored employees to training, especially abroad. It cultivates the flawed notion that training is a function of office politics rather than of development. The objective of training is to ensure that nobody gets left behind. Company performance is only as strong as its weakest link. Training opportunities should be spread equitably and purposefully. Everyone is trainable.

Genuine employer-employee partnership will make training meaningful.

(The author is a training and communication consultant. E-mail the author at success.system1 @gmail. com.)

'Is it wrong to transfer companies too soon or too often?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

IN TWO YEARS, I HAD worked with three companies. I am not happy now in my present company and I am looking around again for new employment. During a job interview, the HR manager looked at my resumé and told me that he doubts if I can stay long enough in a company.

I explained why I had to leave the two companies, citing the unprofessional behavior of my bosses and the HR staff. I can't seem to convince probable employers that I can stay with them long enough to recover their investment on new hires like me.

Is it wrong to transfer from one company to another too soon or too often? How long should I stay? What are the acceptable reasons for leaving?

Confused Job Hopper

Thank you for your long letter, I had to edit out some parts. I can understand your situation. In your career, you are bound to meet people who will not like you, even if you do a great job. I also noted how unhappy you are in your present company. That makes three companies in a row that could not give you the satisfaction you are looking for in your career. I hope that you soon find one where you can stay longer and happier.

What employees want

In the past, lifetime employment was the norm. Your grandparents and their contemporaries must have joined stable companies and stayed there until retirement. In Japan, lifetime employment was the hallmark of loyalty, a national virtue. This was mostly during the time of the Baby Boomers. Employees' preferences all over the world have changed since then.

Today, we see a different workplace and a different workforce. Many employees don't spend their productive lives in one company. In fact, many employees don't just change companies, they also shift careers.

The Gen-Xers came after the Baby Boomers. Then, the Generation Y began to invade the workplace. The Gen-Xers and the Generation Y are entirely different from the Baby Boomers. They join a company, do a great job, prefer immediate rewards, want more challenge, and move on to look for more challenges elsewhere.

In the Americas, employees are now expected to make six to eight career shifts in their lifetime. In Japan where lifetime employment was the norm, we see more career mobility and shifting among the younger employees. In Indonesia and similar economies, employees jump to another company at the prospect of a slightly bigger compensation package.

What companies prefer

Most progressive companies want to have the best of both worlds. On one hand, they want relatively mature, trusted and reliable employees who provide stability and continuity. (This makes up as much as 70 percent of employees in an organization.) On the other hand, companies also want to inject fresh blood every now and then. They get this from two sources—fresh graduates with potentials, and other companies' seasoned managers and professionals with new ideas, perspectives, insights and competencies that normally take more time to develop internally.

If you are applying for a position in the 70-percent category, the ability to stay put in a particular career path is important. If you seek a managerial position, the recruiter will still look at your tenure in your previous employment and your reason for leaving.

Companies usually spend much money in the hiring process. They usually want to recover the hiring expenses by getting some productive work from new hires. In most cases, it takes two to three years before a new hire can perform at optimum level and for the company to recover its hiring and training expenses.

Stable or stagnant?

Staying long in the same job, company or industry can signal stability.

It can also mean stagnation. Which is which?

In the companies I served, I saw clerks, welders, drivers and similar employees who joined and retired in the same position. Is that good or bad? Is the employee or the company at fault? It is not easy to judge.

If the employees are happy with what they do and the company got something in return for its payroll, then let it be. No one is at fault if people don't move up or across the organization, as long as there are opportunities. In most companies, there are a majority of employees you don't expect to move up more than a notch or two in the hierarchy.

High flyers

There are also high flyers in the organization. These are the people with potential to move up to the highest leadership positions. Organizations must be quick to spot this type of employees. High flyers usually need a long-term development plan to make them well-rounded in the business.

They need opportunities to learn both hard and soft skills. They must also move from one position to another over relatively shorter periods, or else they easily get bored in jobs that they master quickly.

Reasons for leaving

When high flyers are not spotted and developed, they tend to move out of the organization. They can move from one company to another and be able to justify their leaving. But usually, they leave their mark of excellence wherever they go. They also try to keep their reputation intact by not burning bridges. Usually, they are also known in the industry and are popular among executive recruiters.

Recruiters normally make a background check on job applicants. They also inquire deeper into reasons for leaving, from both parties' points of view.

Recruiters look for a pattern. If an employee says that he left his last three employers because his bosses quarreled with him, recruiters might be wary of the employee, not the bosses. If the reason for leaving is lack of career development opportunities, the recruiter will probably see if this is true or not. If the previous employer is a large multinational that spends millions for training and development, the recruiter will doubt the job applicant's allegation. Most progressive companies do not develop employees across the board. They are selective, and priority is given to those with high potentials.

There is no right or wrong reason for leaving. It usually depends on how you can explain your reason.

Staying long in a company without any achievement does not speak well of an employee. Transferring from one company to another faster than one can settle down and contribute some value is not good either. Staying longer than necessary, when you have to drag yourself to work in a place you hate, is unfair for you and for your company. Stay if you will; leave if you must. But, try not to burn your bridges.

"The hardest thing to learn in life is which bridge to cross and which to burn," says David Russell.

(The author is chair of the IR Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce and Chair of ECOP's Long Range Policy Planning Committee. He is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Send feedback at ernie_cecilia @yahoo.com)

Gospel: Luke. 12: 49-53

"I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!..."

Working on fire

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WE CERTAINLY HAVE ENCOUNTERED WORKERS WHO WOULD work like persons with some kind of fire within, consuming their energies and strength, spending long hours in their jobs. It is very important for the worker to have a reason or reasons to work. But it is vitally necessary for the worker to have the right kind of "fire," which could give him real gains for his energy-consuming work.

For some it would be the fire of wealth and material things which would make the worker and his family enjoy the good things in life but would also make him a virtual slave of his work; for others it would be the fire of ambition which pushes the employee to reach the top of the ladder of success, but would feel guilty of attaining it at the expense of the others, exploiting them or stepping on their rights. Some others could be driven by the fire of self-fulfillment which might sound nobler than the former two kinds of "fires" and would make the worker gain the needed self-esteem and self- worth but could still not fully satisfy all the longings and desires of his human heart. There is still another kind of fire which Jesus brought to "set the earth" ablaze with—the fire of God's love, which drove Him to fulfill His mission, the work given Him by the Father, completely until the very last drop of His blood on the Cross.

Every worker is invited to try the fire of the love of God, obedience to His will, and union with Jesus to burn in his heart by accepting and believing in Jesus. Working with such fire in faith will make everyone experience the warmth of a meaningful job and enjoy a total satisfaction of all his human needs—including those of the spiritual ones. *(E-mail the author mfvg@skyinet.net)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Where's your fire?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

DO YOU KNOW WHAT ROLE FIRE HAS IN YOUR WORK? AS I SAT down and kept still to begin writing this piece—turning verse 49 of today's over and over in my head—it dawned on me that my typical day begins and ends with fire, literally. I rise and light a candle to pray; then I hear the 6 a.m. Mass where there are also burning candles. Back in my condo-home after Mass I'd walk up seven floors (total 153 steps) to the roof deck to "keep my date" with a huge ball of fire—the sun—my sole companion as I meditate, deep-breathe, stretch and fire up my body by dancing. Oh yes, I have a dancing companion—my MP3, for some fiery music to move to, naturally!

Between that and bedtime, although I may not deal directly with fire, all my activities—whether at home making a meal or elsewhere making a living—need tools that use electricity, an energy that can produce fire.

But in the back of my head, the candle I lit up as I arose burns on through the thrills and spills of dealing with people at work, likable or not. When I'm back home, for evening prayer I light a candle again whose flame will accompany me until bedtime. And now I also realize that the focal point of my altar also has fire—crowning the heart of Jesus. A smaller version of the Sacred Heart image is also right outside my condo unit, glued on to cover the "bagwan" that the former tenant, a feng shui believer, permanently installed over the door. (I figured that if I must display something at my door it might as well represent Someone I believe in—as it is inside, so it is outside). And right before retiring, I blow off the candle. So now you know what fires me up at work. What about you—where's your fire? *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

Let's Study in Japan

Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) in the Republic of the Philippines 2008-2009

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has started the implementation of the Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) through the assistance of the Government of Japan for Japanese Fiscal Year 2002.

The objective of the JDS Project is to provide Philippine nationals with opportunities for obtaining master's degree at the Japanese universities in order to support human resource development policy of the Government of the Philippines, and eventually to extend and strengthen the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

The JDS Project targets young government employee who are expected to play leadership roles in the Philippines.

The JDS Project is exclusively for the Philippine Public Sector.

Degree to be obtained and Field of Study

1. Degree: Master's Degree (2-2.5 years courses)
2. Field of Study (number of scholars to be accepted)
   - -Public Administration (8 persons)
   - -Economics (8 persons)
   - -Information and Communication Technology (3 persons)
   - -Industrial Development (2 persons)
   - -Business Administration (4 persons)
3. Language of Instruction: predominantly English

Common Agenda for Each Field of Study:

For JDS project in the Philippines, the "Common Agenda" has been settled for each field as follows:

Public Administration
- Building Institutional Capacity for Better Governance
- Advancing Decentralization and Regional Development

Economics
- Ensuring Balanced and Stable Fiscal Management
- Promotion of Sound Market and Industries

Information and Communication Technology
- ICT Policy to Create Wider and Advanced Usage

Industrial Development
- Industrial Development Policy for Global Competitiveness

Business Administration
- Providing Sound and Attractive Business Environment

Allowances for JDS applicants and fellows:

1) Fee for IELTS and limited medical examination
2) Limited transportation and accommodation allowances for selection stages and .pre-departure orientation

Qualification Requirements:

1) A Filipino Citizen;
2) Below 40 years old as of April 1, 2008; (Those who were born on/after April 2nd 1968)
3) Civilian Government employee, permanent status, and has 2 years of work experience in the public sector at the time of application;
4) Has a performance rating of at least "very satisfactory" at the time of application
5) Bachelor's degree relevant to the target fields except for ICT field, which applicants should have bachelor's degree in ICT or equivalent is required ; and
6) Has not been awarded foreign scholarship for Master's degree;

Selection Procedures

-First Selection:
Documentation Screening by Accepting Universities

-Second Selection:
English Examination(IELTS), Math Test

-Third Selection
Technical Interview by professors of the accepting universities

-Fourth Selection
Comprehensive Interview by O/C members

Application

-Application Documents are distributed at
-JICE JDS Project Office, or
-Can be downloaded at http://sv2.jice.org/jds/
(website will be available from 13th of August)

Deadline for Application

Not later than 16:30hrs on October 19, 2007

Late submission and incomplete application documents shall not be accepted.

Where to submit

Application forms and required documents must be submitted either personally, by mail, or courier to JICE JDS Project Office.

For further information, inquire from:

JICE JDS Project Office in the Philippines

(Mon to Fri, 09:00 to 12:00, 13:30 to 16:30)
Unit 2-F1, Island Plaza Salcedo, L.P. Leviste Street,
Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
*TEL: 02-7533261
*Official Web Site: http://sv2.jice.org/jds/

Executing Agency

National Economic and Development Authority (Public Investment Staff)

Save the Children

Save the Children US is a non-government organization and one of the leading international development organizations in the world. The mission of Save the Children is to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents. Save the Children is a non-political non-religious international organization that pride itself on independence and neutrality.

In the Philippines, the Save the Children Philippines Country Office has been working for nearly 25 years. Programs and project operations now include West Visayas (Iloilo, Guitars, and Antique), Metro Manila (Parañaque, Taguig and Las Piñas), the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and parts of Central and Western Mindanao. Save the Children Philippines Country Office activities include: SPONSORSHIP programs; EDUCATION - Early Child Development, Elementary and Secondary Education; HEALTH, POPULATION & NUTRITION, and CHILDREN IN EMERRGENCY and CRISIS Using cross cutting strategies of Appreciative Community Mobilization, Experience-based Advocacy, and Behavior-centered Programming. **Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for the National Office.**

Metro Manila Program Manager
(Code: MMPO Mgr)

Reporting to the Philippines Office Country Director, the MMPO Manager has overall responsibility for field program operations in the Metro Manila program area

1) Strategic Planning, Program Development and Management:
- Provide direction and leadership to Metro Manila Program Office (MMPO) operations on a day-to-day basis in support of the overall country strategic goals in general and MMPO's priorities in particular.
- Ensure Metro Manila's Sponsorship Implementation Plan (SIP) and Program Implementation Targets (PIT) are implemented and achieved on time.
- Conduct at least two planning and assessment workshops to strengthen program quality and alignment of MMPO program priorities with CRF;
- Strengthen MMPO's integrative implementation of health, education and emergency preparedness, and child protection initiatives

2) Support to Sponsorship Management
- Ensure phase-in and phase-over processes for targeted impact areas are implemented in accordance to plan;
- Support donor servicing and retention efforts

3) Financial and Administrative Management
- Accountable for judicious management of program resources; ensures the availability and timely release of financial support for approved projects and activities needing budgetary support.
- Adopts strategies that generate staff, community and partner ownership of planning and the development process to promote shared responsibility in resource commitment for sustainable results
- Effective and efficient security and operation of program assets and equipment including effective operation and maintenance of transportation, communication, purchasing and other administrative support

4) Representation, Networking, and Policy/Advocacy:
- Actively participates in city level representations e.g. as representative in Local Council for the Protection of Children; ensure functional relationships to Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC);
- Pro-active participation in network regional alliance; maintain close linkages with appropriate government units e.g.: City Health Office, City Social Service, and Department of Education-Paranaque City Division;
- Advocate strategic policy agenda in the LGU; establish strategic program partnerships with NGOs and other civic groups towards meeting program goals

5) Personnel Management and Staff Development:
- Catalyzes/ facilitates staff engagement, satisfaction, and continuing progressive capability building for quality work through various staff development opportunities; work from a plan for building sectoral depth and cross-sectoral program implementation skills
- Engage staff in the agency's objectives, directions and processes; build teamwork within MMPO in particular and the Country Office in general.
- Conducts a comprehensive and timely annual performance review with each direct report so they clearly understand what is expected of them; give on-going and constructive feedback on performance, including praise and rewards for good performance, and specific corrections for poor performance; addresses performance problems and disciplinary actions promptly, consistently and fairly
- Understands and watchful for signs of stress in self and others and takes steps to manage and address

6) Research, Data Management, Documentation
- Ensures timely preparation and submission of annual program operational plan and accomplishment reports, the over-all documentation of significant program experiences, results of field testing of strategy and model implementations.
- Ensures community-based M&E for program reporting requirements and planning, and partner support for initiatives; facilitates and assists in the establishment of a management information system that will include the establishment of a database for community profile and updating of program accomplishments.
- Supports agency-wide monitoring and evaluation initiatives to build and use databases; participate in the conduct of special study and resources.

Competencies and Qualification Requirements: (in addition to Core Competencies)
- Achievement orientation, analytical skills, conceptual thinking, time management, training skills, Initiative, Interpersonal skills, Leading communities, Positive work attitude, Program design, Program implementation, Respect for confidentiality, Developing sustainability, Cultural awareness and sensitivity, organizational and project commitment, written communication skills
- Hands-on experience in community-based program management on any of the sectoral programs of health, education, and emergency work in development organization environments is preferred

Driver – Metro Manila (Code: MM Driver)
2-year period

Competencies and Qualification Requirements:
- Professional drivers license, Familiarity with the road network and geography of the Metro Manila area and other areas in Luzon, basic understanding of vehicle maintenance and upkeep, Administrative skills, Security policies of Save the Children; ease in basic communication with various parties – staff, community volunteers, government, donors, etc. – local and international, Positive work attitude, Maintaining Confidentiality, Time management

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation.
Deadline of submission for MM Driver: Aug. 24, 2007 (Friday)

Qualified applicants may send their resumés
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By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc.
(MetroManila) No. 1 Encarnacion St. corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue,
Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila
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(For more information on Save the Children Philippine Country Office programs and projects, an electronic brochure can be requested through the email address below)

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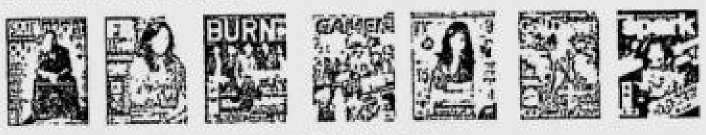

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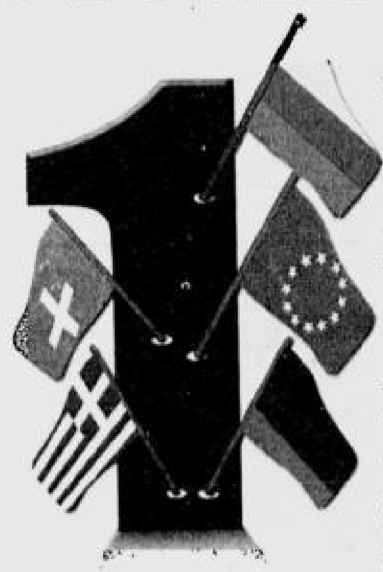

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DOLE to monitor compliance to new wage order in NCR

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) said recently it will closely monitor the enforcement of the new wage order in the National Capital Region (NCR) to ensure compliance of industries as soon as it is implemented.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that measures have already been set in place to ensure that employers in Metro Manila comply not only with the new wage order but with other labor standards as well.

He said the Dole, incidentally, has been implementing its Labor Standards Enforcement Framework (LSEF)-Inspection Blitz project since last month in which Dole inspectors including those who conduct technical safety inspection, are all placed in inspection mode to check compliance of establishments with core labor standards, one of which is the payment of minimum wage.

He said that under the project, Dole inspectors work as team by visiting all establishments in a particular area before moving on to other areas in a blitzkrieg style to cover more establishments in much shorter period of time.

The labor chief said that Dole inspectors in NCR would immediately make a round of visits in establishments in Metro Manila upon the effectivity of NCR Wage Order No. 13.

The new wage order will take effect 15 days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

The Dole chief noted that violations of the minimum wage are usually widespread in the first few months of its effectivity but begin to taper off as more employers adjust with the new wage order. But he said that the Dole will issue a writ of execution against companies that would be found violating the new wage order.

Meanwhile, the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC) has affirmed Wage Order No. 13 which was issued by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board in the National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR).

NWPC Officer-in-Charge Esther F. Guirao said that the Commission has reviewed the provisions of Wage Order No. 13 which is scheduled to be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

Wage Order No.13 gave a P12.00 increase and integrated the P50.00 cost of living to the basic daily pay of workers in the private sector in NCR, increasing the minimum daily wage to P362.00 from P350.00.

The wage increase applies to all minimum wage earners in the private sector in the Metro Manila, regardless of their position, designation or status of employment and irrespective of the method by which they are paid.

NCR Wage Order No. 13, however, does not cover household or domestic helpers or those in the personal service of another, including family drivers, and workers of duly registered Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBEs).

Regional Board Director Raymundo G. Agravante said exempted from the coverage of the Wage Order are distressed establishments, retail and service establishments employing not more than 10 workers, establishments whose total assets are not more than P3 million, establishments facing potential losses, and establishments affected with natural calamities.

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Supervisory and Leadership Skills Development	Aug. 20-21	Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	Francis/Della/Myrna/Andrew tel. 881-2540, 881-7358, 882-5716
Clarifying the Applicability of DO-18-02 Series of 2002 to Coop	Aug. 23 1-5p.m.	Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City	PALSCON secretariat (Bleth -534-0035 / Leslie /374-7945)
Effective Key Account Management	Aug. 22-23 8:30a.m.-5:30p.m.	Astoria Plaza	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058/8959527/0917-3257870 Website:www.Ariva.com.ph
Job Analysis, Evaluation and Classification	Aug. 23-24 8:30a.m.-5p.m.	PMAP Center	Mira Jakosalem @ 726-1532/81/88 mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph
Let Your Business English Work! A Corporate Writing & Spoken English Course	Aug. 24-25 8:30a.m.-5:30p.m.	Astoria Plaza	ARIVA! Seminar & Convention Organizers 8958058/8959527/0917-3257870 Website:www.Ariva.com.ph
Coaching and Counselling Skills	Aug. 27-28	Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	Francis/Della/Myrna/Andrew tel. 881-2540, 881-7358, 882-5716
Recruitment and Placement of Workers	Aug. 28 8:30a.m.-5p.m.	PMAP Center	Mira Jakosalem @ 726-1532/81/88 mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph
Tax Amnesty	Aug. 29 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	Powermax Consulting Group 687-9014 or 687-5748 • Look for Leni
Proactive Supervision and Leadership	Aug. 30 1-5 p.m.	Holiday Inn Galleria	Powermax Consulting Group 687-9014 or 687-5748 • Look for Leni
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Enhancing HR's Strategic Role	Sept. 4-5 8:30a.m.-5p.m.	EDSA Shangri-La	Luanne dela Cruz @ 726-1532/81/88 luanne.delacruz@pmap.org.ph
Effective Business Writing Skills	Sept. 5-6	Makati Stock Exchange Bldg.	Francis/Della/Myrna/Andrew tel. 881-2540, 881-7358, 882-5716

Employers tackle P12 wage hike in Metro Manila

WAGE ORDER NO. NCR-13, WHICH WAS recently issued, has sparked quite a number of discussions within the ranks of labor and employers alike amid economic issues that need to be addressed.

The new wage order adjusts the minimum wage rate of nonagricultural workers in Metro Manila to P362 a day and the daily wage rate of those in the agricultural, retail/service and manufacturing sectors to P325. The pay adjustment takes effect on Aug. 28, including the integration of the P50 cost-of-living allowance into a worker's basic pay.

Excluded from coverage of Wage Order No. NCR-13 are household helpers, or a person employed in the personal service of another, including family drivers and workers of registered barangay micro business enterprises hired after its effectivity.

It is in this light that the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) is spearheading a half-day symposium on the new wage order to give entrepreneurs, executives and human resource practitioners an extensive overview of the new wage order. The symposium will be held on Aug. 29, at the Case Room, Yuchengco Institute of Advance Studies, Level 5 Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

According to Ecop President Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr., the symposium will tackle, among others, the provisions of the wage order and mechanics of implementation; implications on employment, cost of doing business and impact on SMEs; and controversies and intricacies of wage setting in the Philippines.

Communication skills training ongoing for Filipino workforce

THE AMERICAN ENGLISH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS currently conducting English and communication skills training for companies in a variety of customer service industries, including healthcare, business processing, banking, and information technology. The program, developed specifically for the Filipino workforce, focuses on Conversational English and General Business English, and can be customized to address the specific communication challenges of a particular industry.

The American English Skills Development Center, Inc, the fastest growing and most effective training center in Makati, is a TESDA-certified company dedicated to improving the spoken English of the Filipino. The company provides practical training solutions for corporations, government organizations, and individuals, with price and scheduling options to meet the needs of anyone who wants to learn.

American English teaches students to use the language naturally, to "think in English", resulting in communication that is spontaneous and more effective. Courses are taught by native-English speaking American and Fil-Am instructors with considerable experience in the training and call center industries.

American English has recently conducted training for a number of global companies, including ABN Amro Savings Bank, Maxicare, Global Exchange Services (GXS), Innodata Philippines, and Health Carousel. Several of these companies have entered into long-term continuous training partnerships with American English.

To schedule a free training demo, or to inquire about customized training programs, contact American English Makati at 889-1101 or 885-0268, or visit their website at www.americanenglish.ph.

DOLE assumes jurisdiction over manpower cooperatives

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RECENTLY issued Circular No. 01-07 "Clarifying the Applicability of DO-18-02 series of 2002 to Cooperatives." The Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors has invited Dole officials to explain the circular and legal authorities to be the reactors.

This forum will be held on Aug.23, Thursday, 1-5 p.m at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Ayala Center, Makati City with Dole Assistant Regional Director Rebecca Chato as speaker.

For reservations, please contact the PALSCON Secretariat (Bleth at 5340035 or Leslie at 3747945).

Committee to ensure a decent work program

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Arturo D. Brion has set up a high-level tripartite committee tasked to give direction to the activities and oversee the implementation of the national action program on decent work (NAPDW).

In a memorandum, Brion directed the National Tripartite Advisory Committee on Decent Work (NTAC) to meet at least once every semester to set strategic directions and review the overall progress of the decent work program in a bid to ensure that the targets for the attainment of decent work for the Filipino workers are achieved.

The NTAC, under Memorandum Circular No. 1, consists of representatives from the Dole, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop).

A tripartite technical working group (TWG) has also been formed to provide technical support and monitor the implementation of the NAPDW. Meanwhile, a joint secretariat will provide administrative support to the NTAC and TWG.

The informal sector will also be represented in the committee, Brion said, adding that he would consult with the informal sector for the designation of a representative to the committee. He also said that the Director of the International Labor Organization for Southeast Asia and the Pacific may be requested to join the NTAC as resource person.

In line with ILO objectives, the Philippine decent work program aims to realize the provision of opportunities for Filipino men and women "to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity."

The program prioritizes, among others, the elimination of the worst forms of child labor, protection for domestic workers, addressing psychosocial and other health and safety problems at the workplace, implementation of workplace HIV/AIDS policies and programs, promotion of decent work in agriculture, prevention of sexual harassment in workplaces, expansion of the coverage of social security and health insurance for the informal sector and overseas workers, employment creation in micro and medium enterprises and promotion of entrepreneurship and workers enterprises, lifelong workers skills development and training, and promotion of competitiveness, productivity, gain-sharing, and sectoral restructuring.

AASHPI 8th confab set

THE ASIAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL HUMAN Resource Management and Development Practitioners, Inc. (AASHPI) will hold its 8th National Convention on Aug. 23-24, at the Heritage Hotel Manila in Pasay City, Philippines.

The prestigious event, which is attended by school owners, administrators, officers and also non-academe lawyers and human resource practitioners is on track to be the biggest of its kind yet.

Hon. Senator Edgardo J. Angara should deliver the keynote address on the theme "Driving Change and Sustaining Peak Performance Through an Energized Human Resource." An ensemble of nine (9) other speakers representing the who's who in the industry will talk about the latest HR trends, legal developments, and the secrets of efficient and effective human resource handling.

Topics for the convention, include "The Evolving Role of HR in Schools", "Sustaining Peak Performance in People", and "Legal Trends in the Academe", among others, were carefully chosen to best represent the growing needs of the industry in the field of education.

For reservation, call 820-8702 local 106 or telefax 825-3985 or email aashpi@yahoo.com.

CONSUELO FOUNDATION is in search of one qualified person for the position of **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.** The position takes responsibility for providing appropriate general clerical and administrative support to the Administration Department.

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Send your letter and resume with photo not later than August 24, 2007 to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCE UNIT
c/o Sylvina Ignacio
27th Flr. Citibank Tower, Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City
Tel No. 8480601 loc 146 or 111
Or email: signacio@consuelo.org

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Possible work locations: NCL, ***Mandaluyong, SL or VisMin***

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Junior INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2007 ◆ 8 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 73

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Win this Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows cap! Turn to page 3!

Let's share!

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU shared your baon? Or your umbrella? Or even the corniest joke?

Nickelodeon gives a shoutout to kids to join in the fun of sharing with Big Help, a campaign to get kids to help other kids.

Launched in Asia in 2003, Big Help entails six big action words: share, give, fix, clean, care and visit. Nickelodeon is focusing on "share" this year.

YOU CAN SHARE
CAN DESIGN CONTEST
Let the Big Help

"We've been doing 'Let's Just Play' for the past three years. This year, instead of having kids do something for themselves, we decided to do Big Help," says Nickelodeon Asia's Ana Pulido.

In line with the Big Help campaign, Nickelodeon appointed everyone's favorite actor, Makisig Morales, as their Big Help ambassador.

"The original plan was to have someone older for ambassador, someone kids can look up to and help them understand what the Big Help campaign is all about," reveals Ana.

"But when Nick held the Kids' Choice Awards last May, we fell in love with Makisig. We saw that he was such a good fit to the Big Help program. We found out that when Makisig won in 'Little Big Star', he donated some of his winnings to Batang Bayani."

Batang Bayani is part of Gawad Kalinga, an organization dedicated to building homes for the less fortunate.

To help finance the building of houses at the Batang Bayani Village in Pasig, Nickelodeon will be distributing Big Help donation cans in chosen schools all over Metro Manila.

And to make the cans even more special, Nickelodeon launched a canister design contest wherein kids can draw what they think sharing is all about. On Aug. 25, Nick will choose one drawing to appear on its Big Help cans.

Sharing means not only giving money or material things. It may be in the form of using your talent for worthwhile endeavors like the Big Help canister design contest. It may simply be sharing time with a friend if he or she is feeling down, or sharing a joke with mom or dad to make them laugh after a long day at work!

So what are you waiting for? Do your share of sharing today!

Think Out Loud!

Who's your hero?

My dad because he takes care of me and puts me to sleep by reading books he read when he was a small boy.—**Benjamin Pangilinan**, 6, Quezon City

My mom because I'm always with her. She always takes me out to have fun.—**Jhelen Celestino**, 11, Marikina City

My mom because I can share my secrets with her and I know that she won't tell.—**Ronilyn Corong**, 12, Marikina City

My older brother because he carries me on his back when there are floods.—**Rachel Abijuela**, 12, Marikina City

My grandmother because she's the one who sends me to school.—**Anthony Maligat**, 8, Manila

My dad because he's the only one who takes care of me.—**Don Jhon Perry Pagtalihan**, 11, Mandaluyong

Guyito's Corral

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Send all contributions to ji@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

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Letters

dear JI,

Every Sunday, I get the newspaper from my yaya and look for Junior Inquirer. I read it first before I do anything. My favorite part is "Wassup World?" because I get to know what's happening in the world.

One night, I saw my mom reading JI. I asked her why she was reading it, and she said that she liked reading it. Last Sunday, I saw my dad reading it too. I saw his face and I did not have to ask anything. I was really happy that adults read it too!

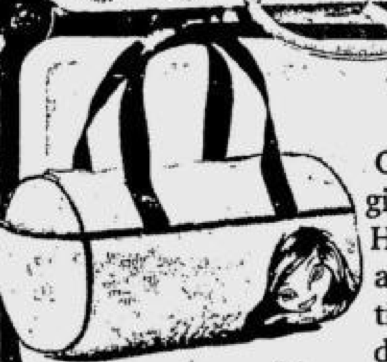
More power to JI!

Your no. 1 fan,
Niña Alvia
9 years old
Pasig City

We're glad even your parents enjoy reading Junior Inquirer, Niña. We hope they write us a letter too, we'd love to hear what they think of JI!

—JI Staff

YOU WIN!



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O B O Z R B A H X Y G L L M B
R B C D Y L E D D A N I L E A
C E H Y E K T R O P I A A N C
R R A A J M M O I H T T N C K
U S N S R T E L N F R M O Y P
X M G L F A X N K T O R G G Y
E V F W J F G Y T Z S O A Q B
S K Z F Z Q S O O O Q W I C B
M A N D R A K E G G R P D N O
C P X E M E R P E O P L E T D
```

Hagrid
Diagon Alley
Sorting Hat
Quidditch
Dobby
Mandrake
Scabbers
Aragog
Firebolt
Dementor
Wormtail
Portkey
Apparate
Merpeople
Zonkos
Occlumency
Cho Chang
Phlegm
Greyback
Horcruxes
Bezoar

After you have successfully encircled all the words from the list, cut out the solved word hunt and mail it to us!

HARRY POTTER
WORD HUNT
JUNIOR INQUIRER
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
1098 Chino Roces Ave.
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
corner Yague
and Mascardo Streets
Makati City

The first ten readers aged 7-14 who send us the winning entries will each win a Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows cap! Hurry, deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 28, 2007.

Congratulations to the first ten readers who aced our Harry Potter Crossword Puzzle! You will each get a Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows bag courtesy of Scholastic Inc.

Ma. Clea Doyo, 12
Dumangas, Iloilo

Eugenio Estrera, 11
Cagayan de Oro City

Stephen Manansala, 8
Muntinlupa City

Sierra Maria E. Botan, 12
Diliman, Quezon City

Samantha Hain, 13
Malate, Manila

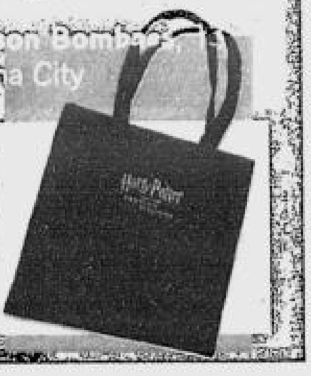
Danica N. Tantuan, 12
Pasay City

Patricia Mae C. Tan, 11
Baesa, Quezon City

Ella Julienne Eralino, 12
Davao City

Fatima Teresa General, 11
Makati City

Johanson Bombase,
Marikina City



Please call Ate Dianne at 897-8808 loc. 340 to find out how you can get your prize. All prizes must be claimed on or before Aug. 31, 2007.

i-Catch Advertising, Inc. IN COOPERATION WITH SM STA. LUCIA GRAND MALL

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AUG. 15, 2007 - FASHION SHOW
AUG. 24, 2007 - GRAND FINALS

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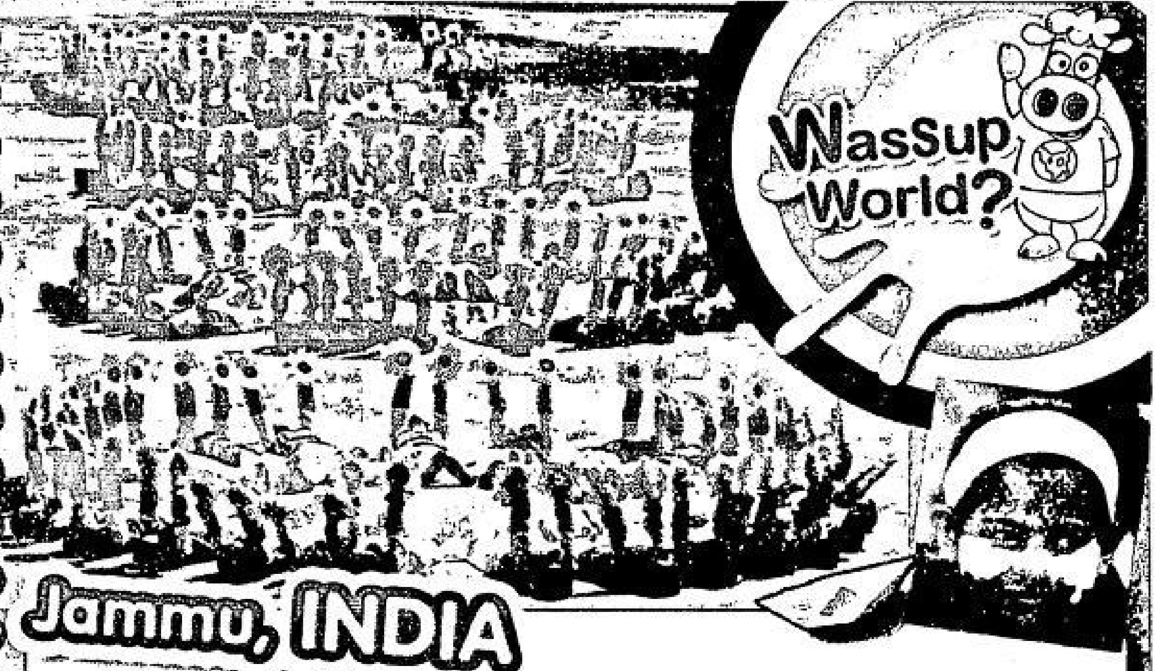
Wassup World?

Gaza Strip, EGYPT

Down under

IMAGINE having to dig underground tunnels in the dark, with limited air supply and stifling heat—all just to buy something! Gazans are doing just that to smuggle everything, from weapons to cigarettes to people. **AP**



Jammu, INDIA

Flower power

SCHOOL children make a formation during Independence Day celebrations in India on August 15. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh marked the 60th anniversary of independence from British rule by urging the country to work harder to free itself from the shackles of poverty, ignorance and disease. **Reuters**

Manila, PHILIPPINES

What dry spell?

A STUDENT wades through floods in Manila on Aug. 15. Pounding rain from Typhoon Egay flooded parts of the Philippine capital, forcing schools to cancel classes. **AP**

Tokyo, JAPAN

The magic of mayo

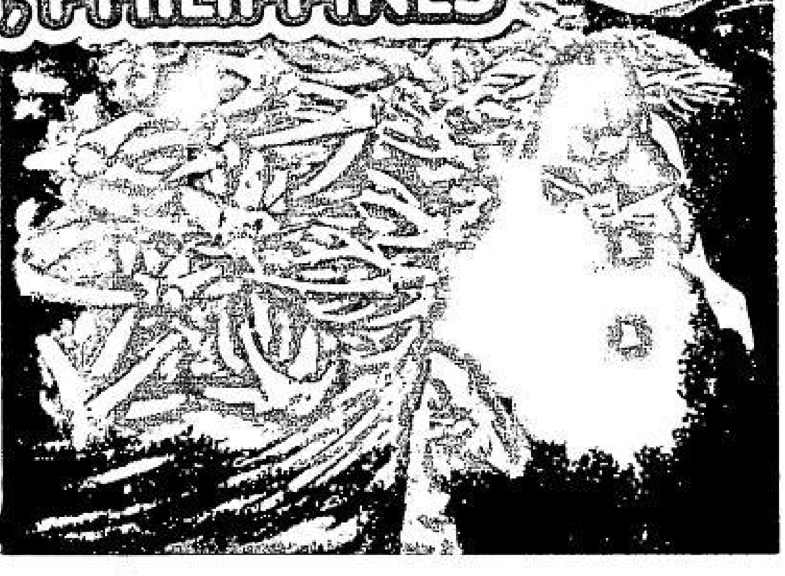
KOJI Nakamura shows off a dish made of mayonnaise and mashed potatoes, and a "mayotini," a drink made with mayonnaise at his restaurant "Mayonnaise Kitchen." The restaurant features mayonnaise on everything from toast and spaghetti to fondue. **Reuters**

Budapest, HUNGARY

The chocolate war

WHY wrestle in mud when you can do it in chocolate? Revellers wrestle in chocolate during Budapest's one-week, round-the-clock Sziget Music Festival. **Reuters**

La Trinidad, PHILIPPINES



Early harvest

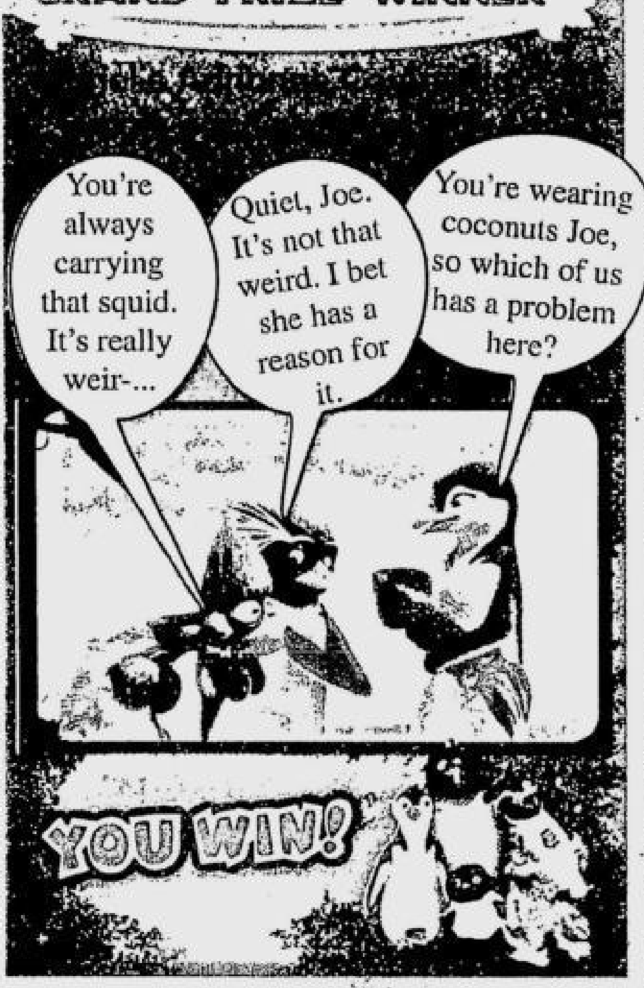
A YOUNG Ibaloi watches over their vegetables at the La Trinidad Trading Post. Because of the rains, farmers gathered their harvest early. The humidity makes vegetables like cabbage, radish, Baguio pechay and potatoes sour. **EV Espiritu / Inquirer Northern Luzon**

SURF SPEAK

CONGRATULATIONS

to the winners of our Surf's Up "Surf Speak" contest. The JI Staff had a lot of fun picking the winners—your wacky lines made us laugh out loud!

GRAND PRIZE WINNER


You're always carrying that squid. It's really weir-...
Quiet, Joe. It's not that weird. I bet she has a reason for it.
You're wearing coconuts Joe, so which of us has a problem here?
YOU WIN!

RUNNERS UP

Michelle Nicole Serrano
7 years old, Makati City
Chicken Joe: I can't take it anymore. I'm going to throw up!
Cody : No, no, no! Not yet ol' buddy!
Lani : Here's the last one! Finish this up and we'll win the challenge!

Krisan Mikhaela S. Cao
11 years old, Laguna
Lani: Hello Cody! What may I trade for this fine fresh squid?
Cody Maverick: I'll exchange it for a newly-fried chicken.
Chicken Joe: (speechless)

Mikhaela Gonzaga
9 years old, Quezon City
Chicken Joe : Don't do this to me. My hairdo is fine.
Cody Maverick : Dude, you're so in the 70's.
Lani: This squid will change your style; this will only hurt a little bit.

Jessica G. Lardizabal
11 years old, Quezon City
Chicken Joe: Dude, I feel like throwing up!
Cody Maverick: Well, don't throw up on me! I have a big contest tomorrow, and I don't want to smell like I'm part of the sea!
Lani: Haha! If you want, you can throw up on my squid!

Luisa Maria Jacinta Jocson
9 years old, Quezon City
Chicken Joe: Coco loco... coconuts...
Cody Maverick: You think he's...???
Lani: Addicted to coconuts again. I brought Squidy to spray ink on him. Squidy's ink can unhypnotize crazy chickens.

Brandon Jacob B. Banan
11 years old, Cavite
Lani: I want to eat this squid.
Cody Maverick: Chicken Joe is much tastier and juicier than that squid.
Chicken Joe: Pick the squid please pick the squid!

Maria Juliana Amba Cobacha
9 years old, Muntinlupa City
Chicken Joe: You know when I farted in the ocean and the fish all mffmf.....
Cody Maverick: Joe! Lani is a lifeguard, remember? She doesn't wanna hear about you farting in the ocean!
Lani: I gotta go guys. There are some fish floating in the ocean and it smells really funky here.

Dominic Johan A. de los Reyes
7 years old, Marikina City
Chicken Joe: What!? Penguin's like you can fly like that while you surf?
Cody Maverick: Chill out! It's our natural hidden talent!
Lani: In fact, I'll be signing a contract with National Geographic with my squid pen.

Enrico Victor M. Tria
9 years old, Cainta, Rizal
Chicken Joe:Mmmmmm!
Lani:What are you doing?
Cody Maverick:Umm, just playing the Cover-the-chicken's-beak-right-next-to-me game.

Please call Ate Dianne Villafuerte at 897-8808 local 340 to find out how you can claim your prize. All prizes must be claimed on or before August 31.

RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

2X EXP EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST 22, 2007!
FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH

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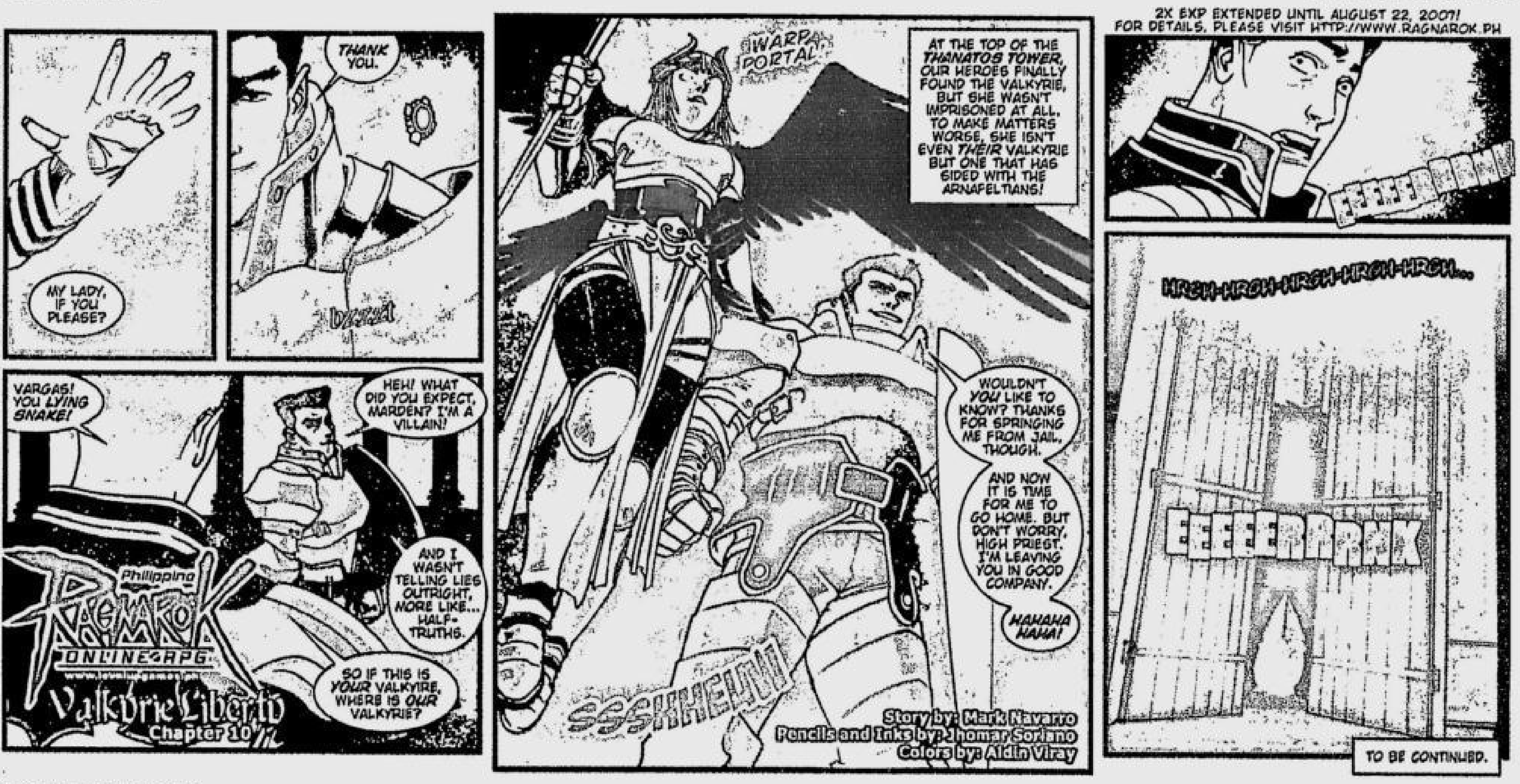
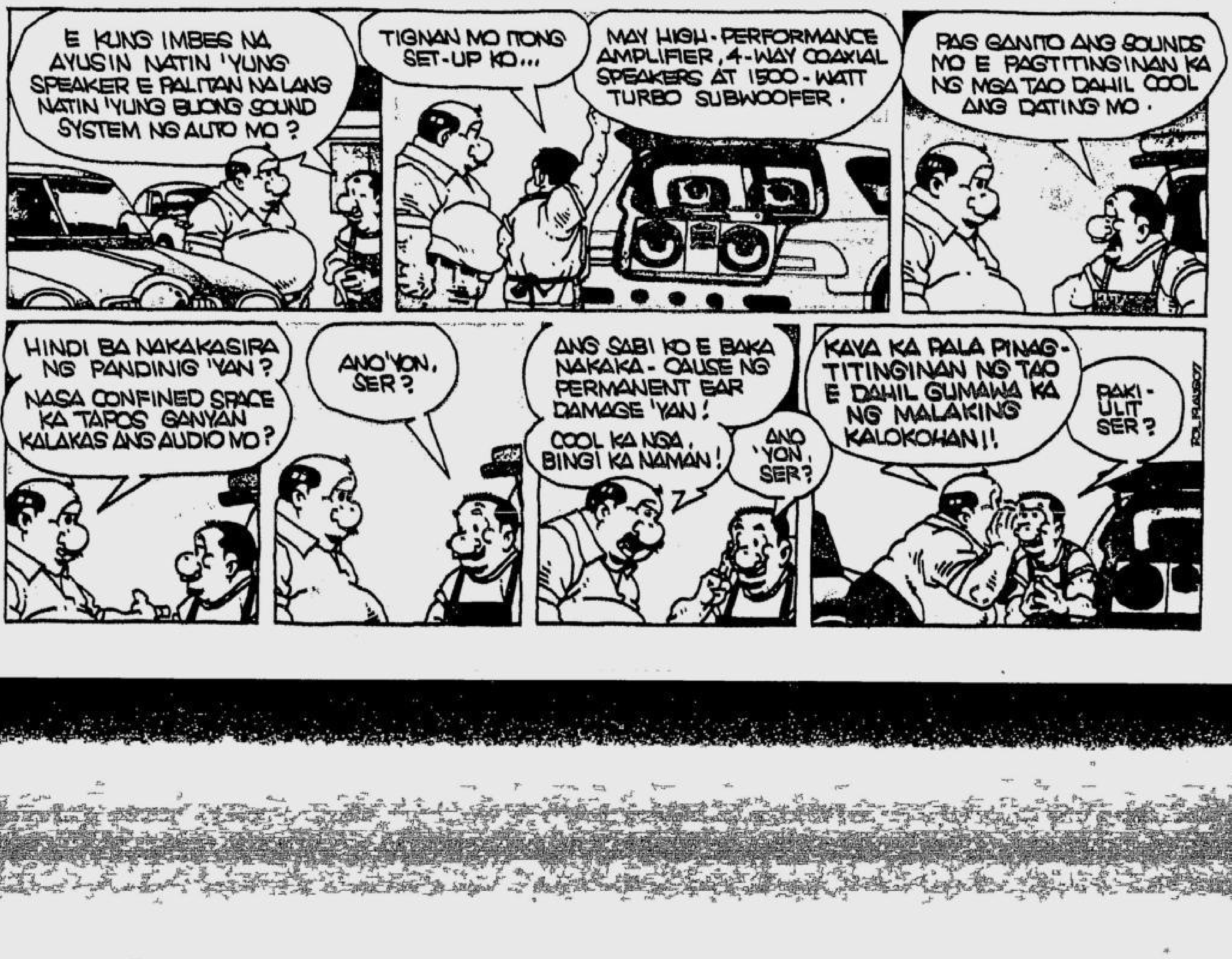

MY LADY, IF YOU PLEASE?
THANK YOU.
DZZZZT
VARGAS! YOU LYING SNAKE!
HEH! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT, MARDEN? I'M A VILLAIN!
AND I WASN'T TELLING LIES OUTRIGHT, MORE LIKE... HALF-TRUTHS.
SO IF THIS IS YOUR VALKYRIE, WHERE IS OUR VALKYRIE?
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
Valkyrie Liberty
Chapter 10
WARP PORTAL
AT THE TOP OF THE THANATOS TOWER, OUR HEROES FINALLY FOUND THE VALKYRIE, BUT SHE WASN'T IMPRISONED AT ALL. TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, SHE ISN'T EVEN THEIR VALKYRIE BUT ONE THAT HAS SIDED WITH THE ARNAFELTIANS!
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW? THANKS FOR SPRINGING ME FROM JAIL, THOUGH.
AND NOW IT IS TIME FOR ME TO GO HOME. BUT DON'T WORRY, HIGH PRIEST. I'M LEAVING YOU IN GOOD COMPANY.
HAHAHA HAHA!
SSSHHEUM
EEEEERRRNK
HRGH-HRGH-HRGH-HRGH-HRGH...
EEEEERRRNK
TO BE CONTINUED.

Story by: Mark Navarro
Pencils and Inks by: Jhomar Soriano
Colors by: Aldin Viray

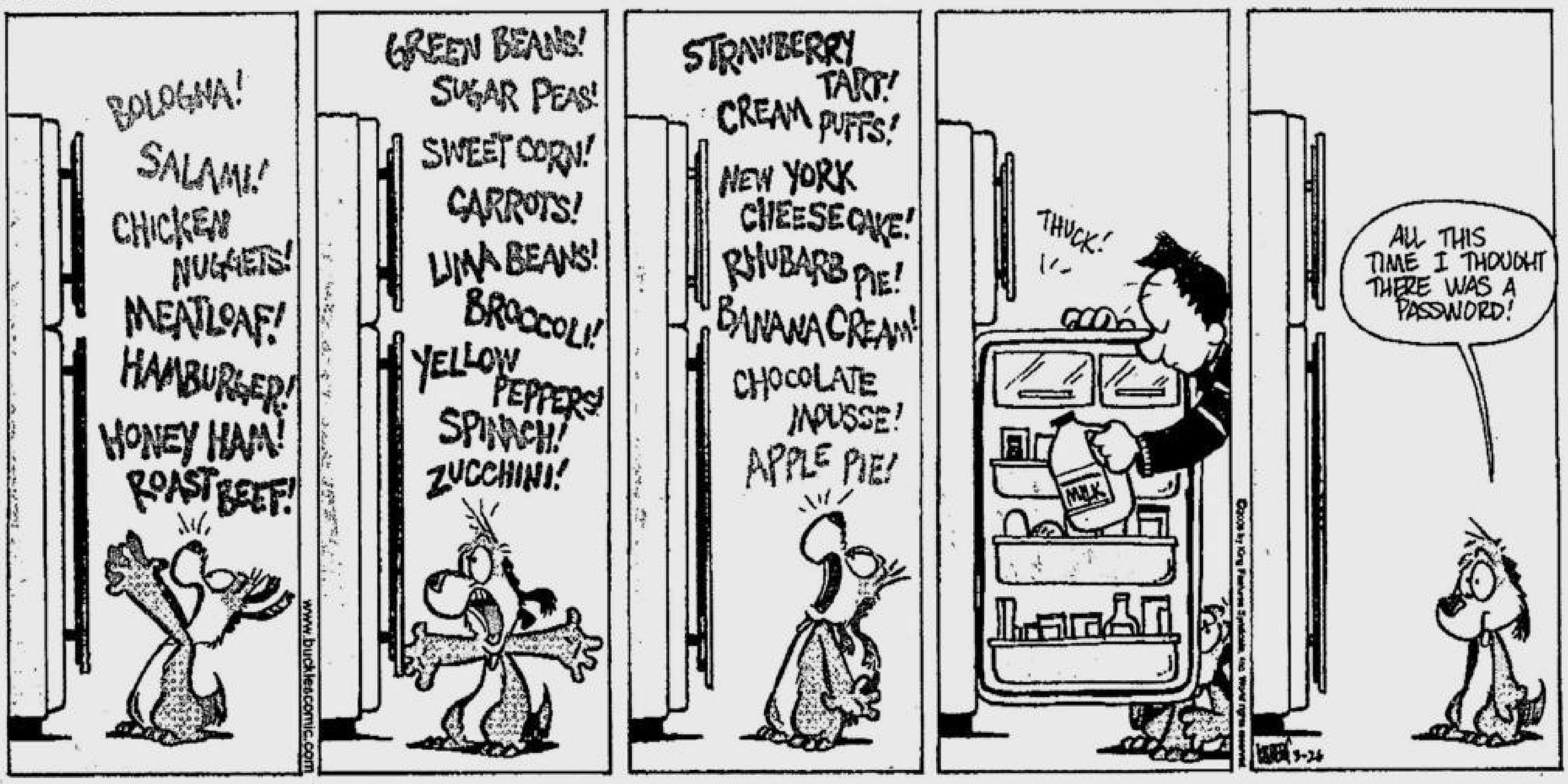
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


E KUNG IMBES NA AYUSIN NATIN 'YUNG SPEAKER E PALITAN NA LANG NATIN 'YUNG BUONG SOUND SYSTEM NG AUTO MO?
TIGNAN MO ITONG SET-UP KO...
MAY HIGH-PERFORMANCE AMPLIFIER, 4-WAY COAXIAL SPEAKERS AT 1500-WATT TURBO SUBWOOFER.
PAG GANITO ANG SOUNDS MO E PAGTITINGINAN KA NG MGA TAO DAHIL COOL ANG DATING MO.
HINDI BA NAKAKASIRA NG PANDINIG 'YAN?
NASA CONFINED SPACE KA TAPOS GANYAN KALAKAS ANG AUDIO MO?
ANO 'YON, SER?
ANG SABI KO E BAKA NAKAKA-CAUSE NG PERMANENT EAR DAMAGE 'YAN!
COOL KA NGA, BINGI KA NAMAN!
ANO 'YON, SER?
KAYA KA PALA PINAGTITINGINAN NG TAO E DAHIL GUMAWA KA NG MALAKING KALOKOHAN!!
PAKI-ULIT SER?
POL 19AUG07

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


BOLOGNA!
SALAMI!
CHICKEN NUGGETS!
MEATLOAF!
HAMBURGER!
HONEY HAM!
ROAST BEEF!
GREEN BEANS!
SUGAR PEAS!
SWEET CORN!
CARROTS!
LIMA BEANS!
BROCCOLI!
YELLOW PEPPERS!
SPINACH!
ZUCCHINI!
STRAWBERRY TART!
CREAM PUFFS!
NEW YORK CHEESECAKE!
RHUBARB PIE!
BANANA CREAM!
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE!
APPLE PIE!
THUCK!
MILK
ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT THERE WAS A PASSWORD!

www.bucklescomic.com

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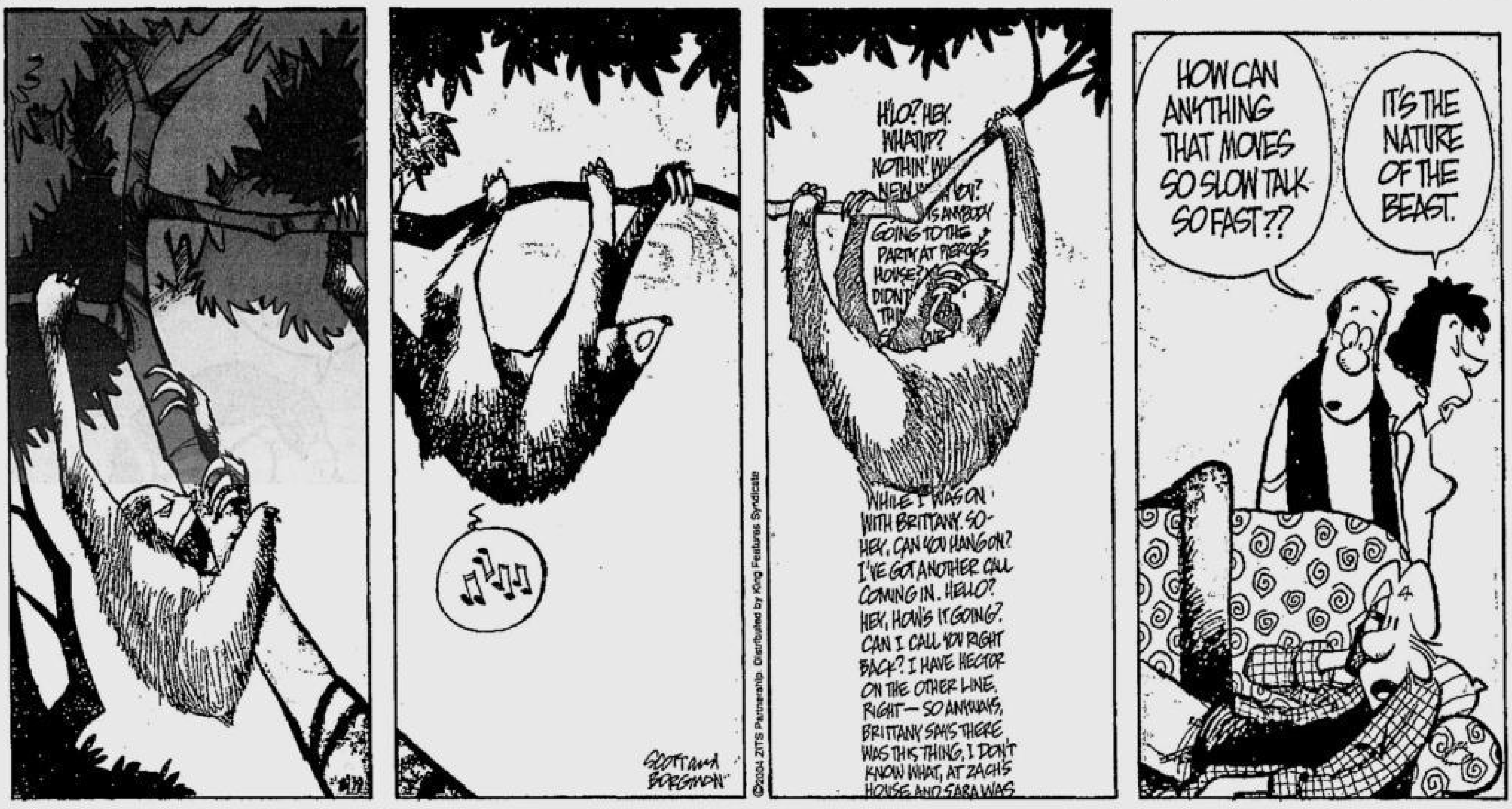
ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


H'LO? HEY. WHAT'UP? NOTHIN'. WH NEW YOU? S ANYBODY GOING TO THE PARTY AT PIERC HOUSE? DIDN'T TH
WHILE I WAS ON WITH BRITTANY. SO- HEY, CAN YOU HANG ON? I'VE GOT ANOTHER CALL COMING IN. HELLO? HEY, HOW'S IT GOING? CAN I CALL YOU RIGHT BACK? I HAVE HECTOR ON THE OTHER LINE. RIGHT— SO ANYWAYS, BRITTANY SAYS THERE WAS THIS THING, I DON'T KNOW WHAT, AT ZACH'S HOUSE AND SARA WAS
HOW CAN ANYTHING THAT MOVES SO SLOW TALK SO FAST??
IT'S THE NATURE OF THE BEAST.

SCOTT and BORGMAN

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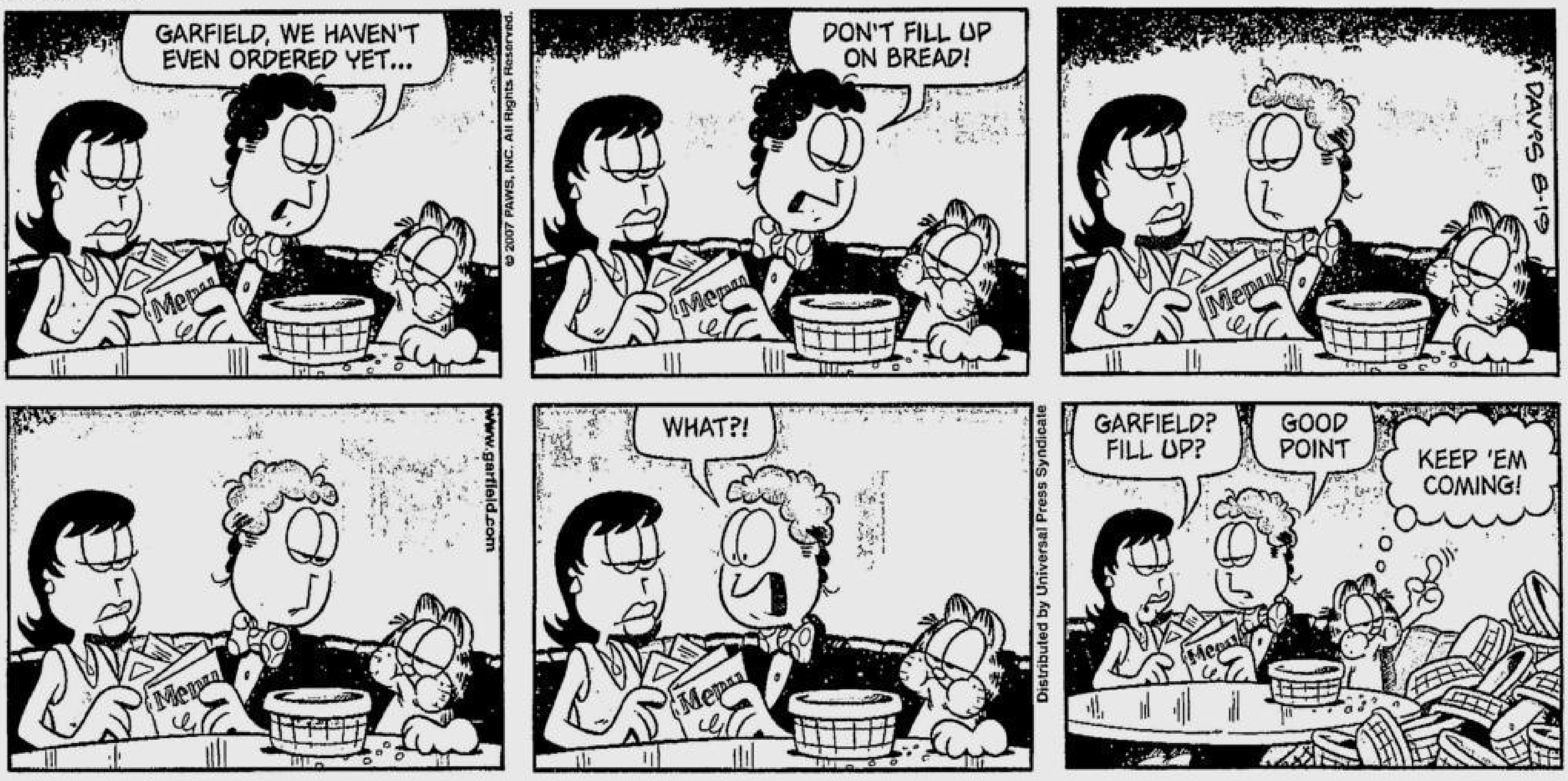
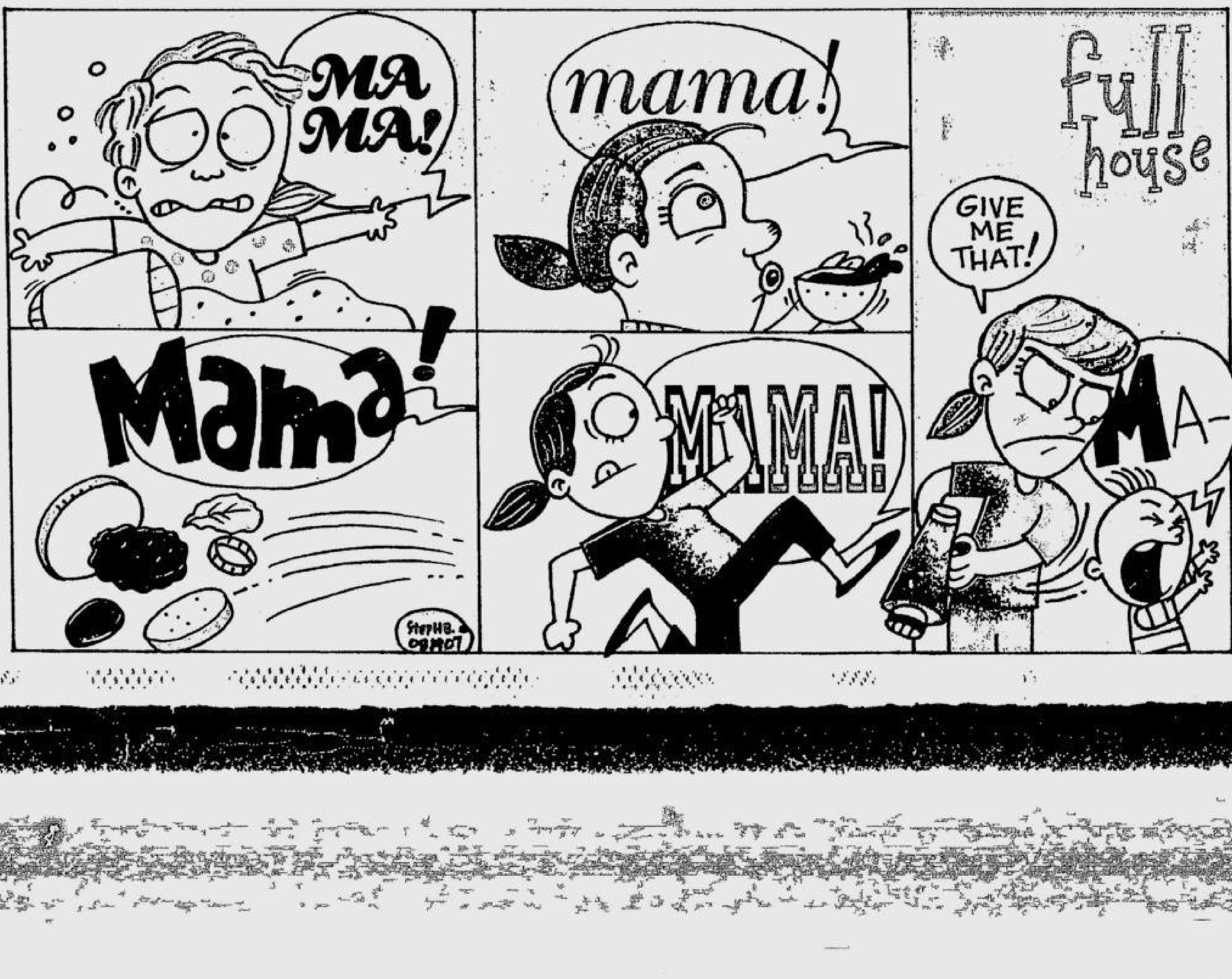
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


GARFIELD, WE HAVEN'T EVEN ORDERED YET...
© 2007 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
DON'T FILL UP ON BREAD!
JPM DAVIS 8-19
Menu
www.garfield.com
WHAT?!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
GARFIELD? FILL UP?
GOOD POINT
KEEP 'EM COMING!

FULL HOUSE

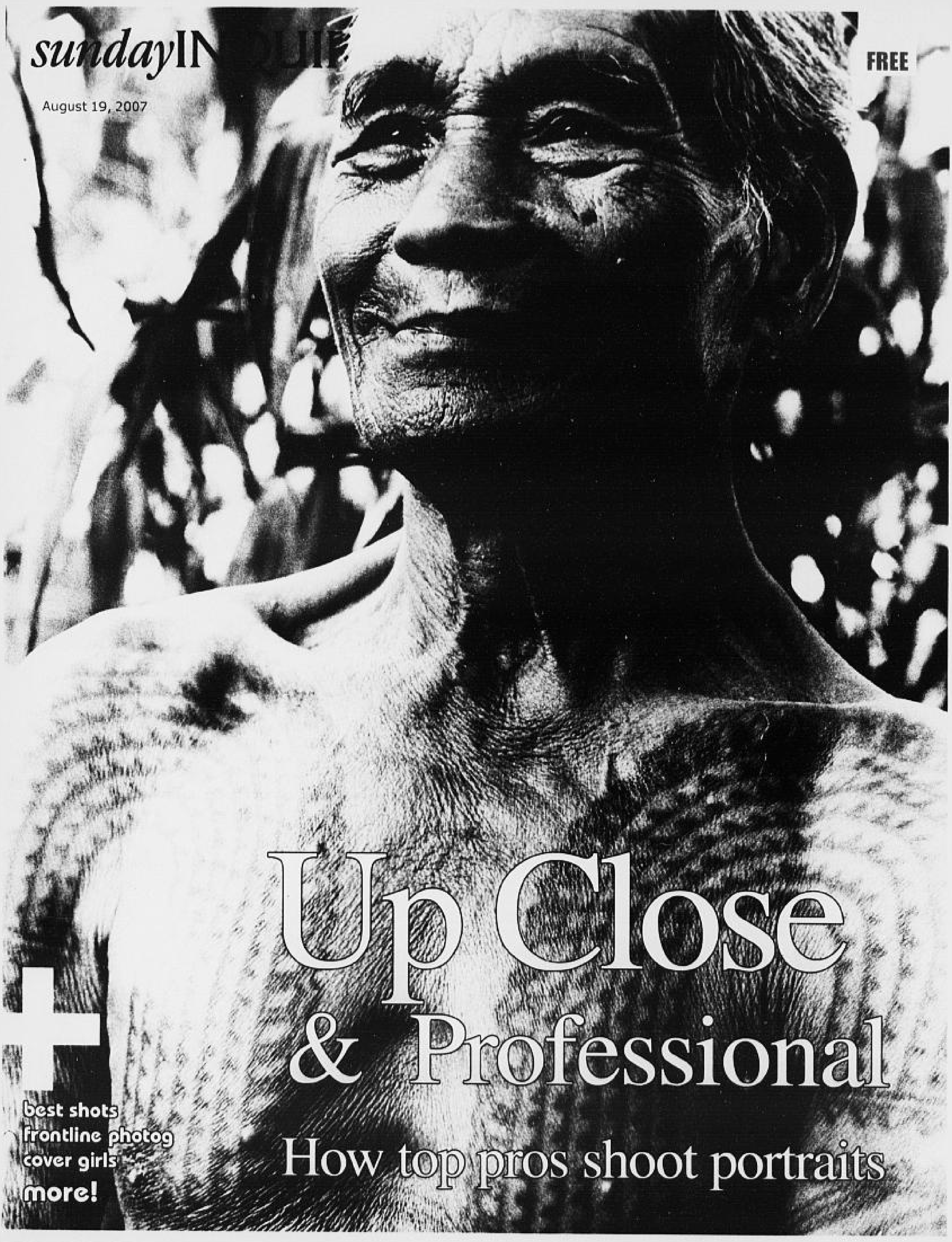
BY STEPH BRAVO


MA MA!
mama!
full house
GIVE ME THAT!
Mama!
MAMA!
MA-
STEPH.B. 08.19.07

*sunday*INQUIR

August 19, 2007

FREE



Up Close & Professional

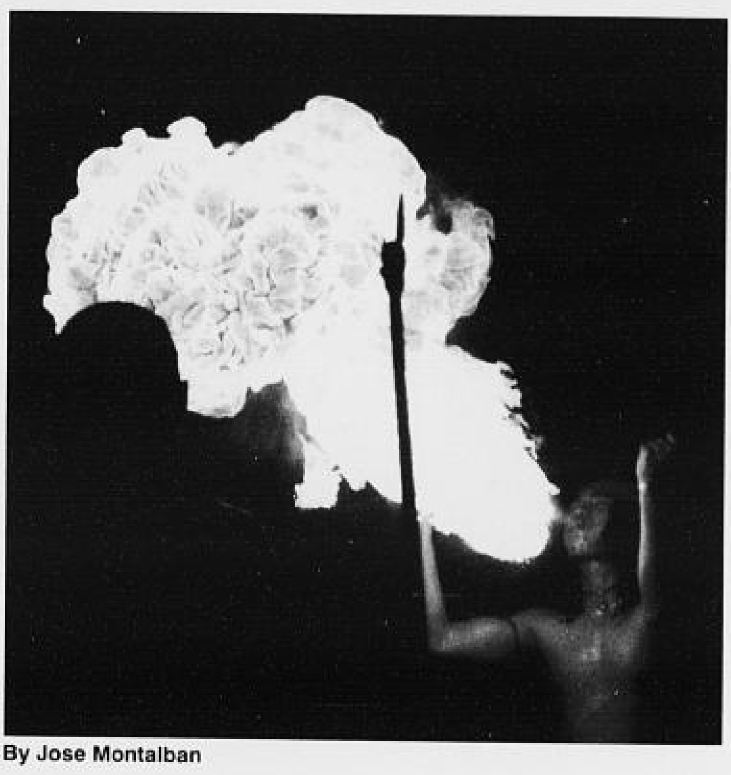
How top pros shoot portraits

+

best shots
frontline photog
cover girls
more!

Four elements, a thousand permutations

Photo buffs, aged 30 to 80, play with fire, earth, wind and water in this ongoing exhibit



By Jose Montalban

By Rodolfo M. De Leon

A PICTURE does paint a thousand words. But digital photography, with its easy link to other multi-media technology, has revolutionized the captured image, making it heir to various permutations. This is amply proven by "Elements: Photoconstructed Realities," an ongoing photo exhibit on the four basic elements of nature—Earth, Wind, Fire and Water—as seen through the lenses of the members of the Camera Club of the Philippines (CCP).

The exhibit, which runs until August 29 at the Ayala Museum in Makati City, signals the Club's switch to digital photography. "The exhibit showcases the various opportunities for art and creativity made possible by digital photography and imaging," says current Club president Leo Riingen.

The CCP is the oldest continuing photographic society in Asia. First established by eight men in 1928, it enjoys a long, unbroken history, except for a brief wartime disruption during the Japanese occupation. Today, the Camera Club completes its 79th year. The "Elements" exhibit launches it into its 80th year.

The CCP has over a hundred active members, whose ages range from the thirties to the eighties, and include such luminaries as Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Pancho Escaler, Emil Davocol, Bien Bautista and Quincy Castillo. •

Images from the "Elements" exhibit will be projected using high definition LCD monitors from Philips Consumer Electronics. The Ayala Museum is located at the corner of Makati Ave. and De la Rosa St., Makati City and is open Tuesdays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Figure It Out

Over 12 million: Number of calendars and datebooks featuring photographs by renowned Australian baby photographer Anne Geddes out in print worldwide, as of 2004.

P175,000 to P200,000: Estimated cost of a digital SLR unit used by professionals in the Philippines

P60,000 to P80,000: Average cost of a single photo session with topnotch Filipino photographers

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Sources: Official site of Anne Geddes, Photography 101 at about.com, andylim.com, Inquirer Photo Department.

Four elements, a thousand permutations

Photo buffs, aged 30 to 80, play with fire, earth, wind and water in this ongoing exhibit

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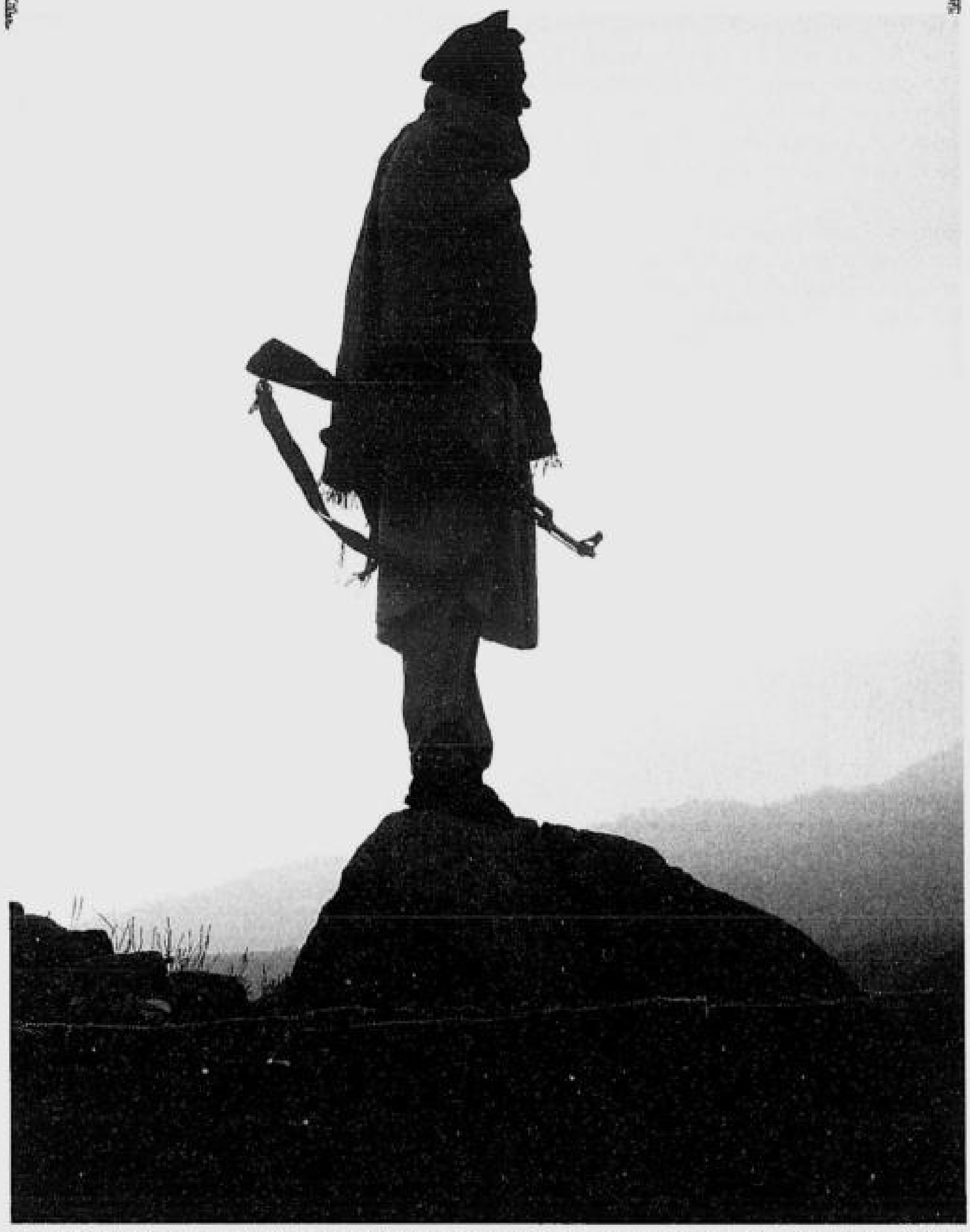
Photographs by Romy Gacad

RomyGacad



An Iraqi woman cries in Karbala (top left); this image of a mujahideen in Afghanistan made the cover of Time (above)

"WHEN covering stories about conflicts and natural disasters, part of my assignment is to produce strong portrait studies of affected people. The biggest challenge in doing this is that the photographer doesn't have full control of the elements around him, from the main subject who can be moving about in the battle zone, the light, and the vast and intricate surroundings. It's so unlike doing portraits in a studio when the shooter has full control of the subject, the light, the setting and ambience, and so on.

"I look around for the best shot of an individual from a small group to a huge crowd. It can be a gathering of three soldiers, the Mujahideen, the Taliban, the NPA, MILF or the Abu Sayyaf or a massive crowd of demonstrators or pilgrims. It's not a pretty face I look for, but those that are very expressive: faces that tell the history of their race or the purpose of their mission or those that reflect the landscape of their country. The light has to be natural and perfect: sunlight filtering through a window or a clear overcast sky, a warm sunrise or sunset light on the side of the eyes. A blue sky or a cloudy sky can be a good silhouette backdrop. Then I lock in on the subject, observe and shoot, move and observe some more but at the same time I need to be unobtrusive with my telephoto lens. An 80-100mm zoom lens is always perfect. I get noticed but the subjects are too engaged in their activity that they don't mind me at all. I am there but I am like a shadow moving with the wind.

"If I can communicate or know the language, I engage the subject in pleasant conversation, not a question and answer interview. I always tell them why I'm taking their picture with honesty and sincerity. Never lie to the subject. I have encountered hostile and friendly reaction and always end the conversation with a thank you and a handshake.

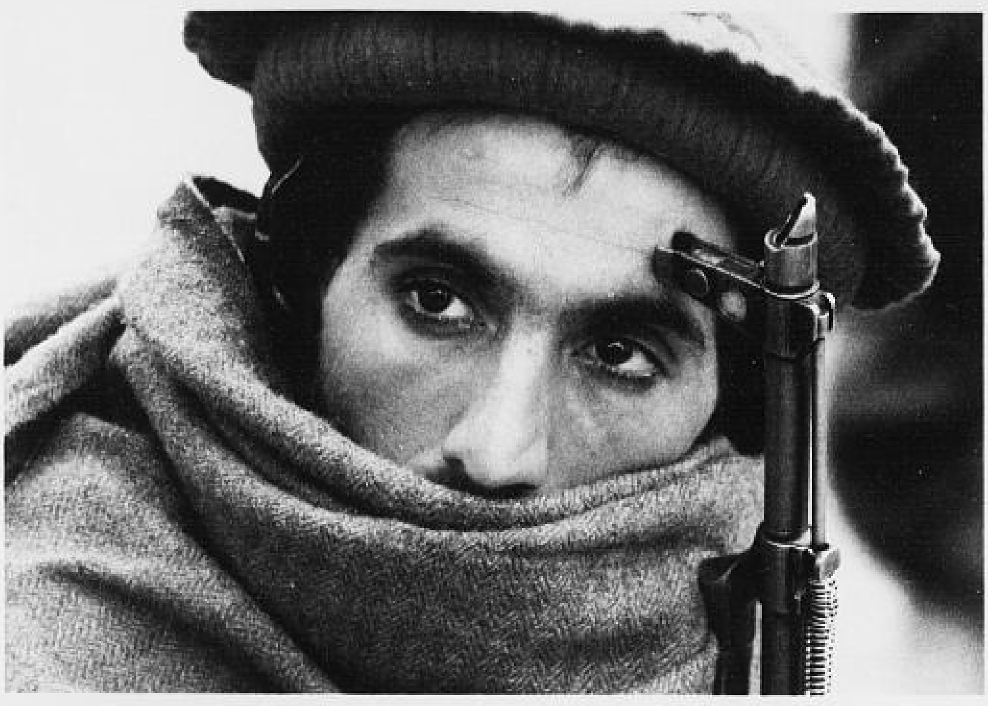
"I have been surrounded by hostile Afghan refugees who stoned and attacked foreign journalists at a refugee camp close to Kandahar. I made the mistake of photographing their women without asking permission from the men. An old man grabbed the camera hanging from my neck

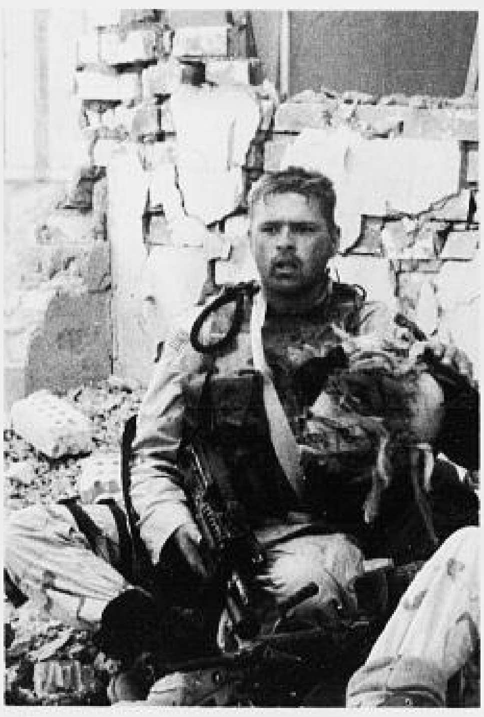
(continued on page 4)

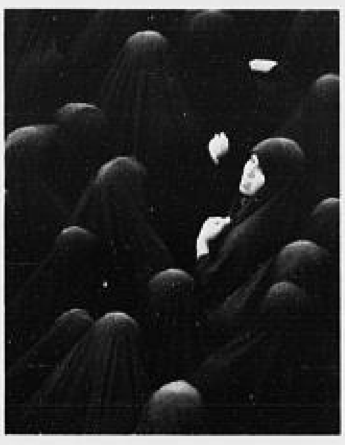
Romy Gacad (from page 3)

and we had a tug of war, until a huge crowd gathered and several children started throwing stones at me. Don't panic. Maintain your composure. I apologized and said the Islamic greeting. The old man let go of his firm hold on my camera strap. The other old men stopped the children from stoning me. I walked away calmly, the crowd opened a path. A wrong move and I could have been in very big trouble."

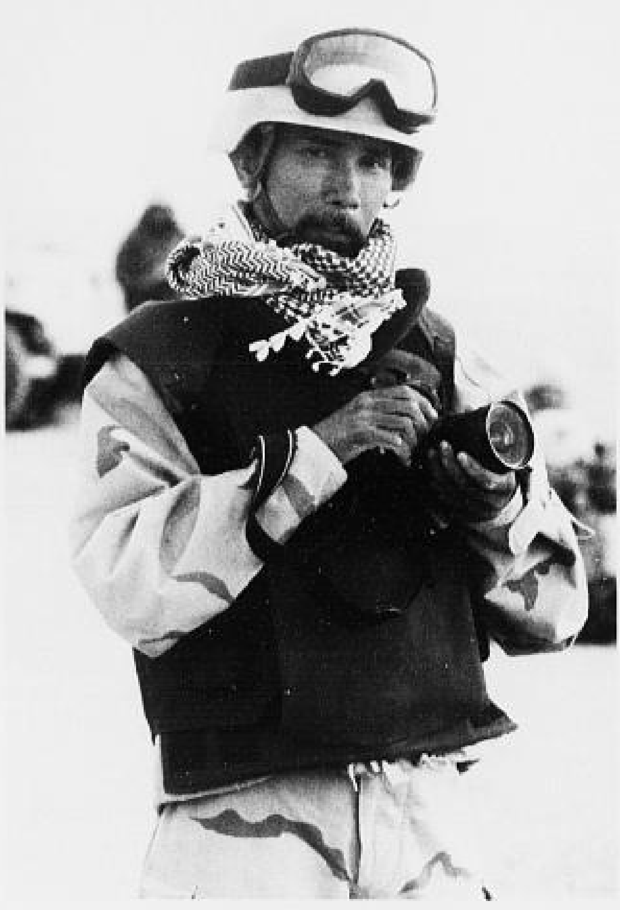
Romeo Gacad majored in visual communication at the College of Fine Arts of the University of the Philippines where he became a photographer for the Philippine Collegian. Gacad joined Agence France-Presse in 1985 and covered three US wars: the 1991 Gulf War, the 2001 war in Afghanistan and the 2003 invasion of Iraq where he spent 41 days as an embedded photographer in the US Army 3rd Infantry Division. Gacad's coverage of the 1988 Olympics, the 2001 war in Afghanistan and the 2003 Iraq war earned him Pulitzer nominations. When not covering conflict or disaster, Gacad loves to shoot farms and nature. He produced his first book together with National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario in 1983, titled "Retrato at Recuerdos," a black and white documentation of life in a peasant village in San Miguel, Bulacan. Gacad's photographs have appeared in international publications and have graced the cover of Time and Newsweek magazines.







Clockwise from left: A US soldier in Baghdad, an Afghan mujahideen fighter, Gacad embedded with the US Army in Karbala, Iraqi Shiite women mourn the death of Imam Hussein.



Text and photograph by Margaux Salcedo

Not Just a Great Steak House

It looks a bit intimidating, but lately Myron's at the Power Plant Mall has developed a more welcoming atmosphere, thanks mainly to its reasonably-priced tender and juicy steaks

HERE'S a confession: Power Plant is like my second home. I was one of its first customers in 1998, along with the rest of the 2002 batch of Ateneo Law. We crashed Starbucks on Rockwell Drive during its blessing, browsed Bibliarch both for its books and to catch a glimpse of Jaime Daez (eye candy!), rejoiced at the opening of McDo and Jollibee (finally, fastfood!) and cut afternoon class to watch the latest movies. Back in those days there was just Grazzi (outside the mall), Cucina Victoria and Pazzo. If you wanted reasonably priced food, you could go to... umm... nowhere, really. It just wasn't an option. Your only other choice was to ask your driver to "stop making *potpot* the car" and "make *pabili* in McDo." That or pressure your rich Atenean classmates to treat you.

This was when Erap was still President. When the country took to the streets in a formidable stance against corruption, the management of Rockwell had its own awakening and started zoning for real human beings, i.e., those of us who actually eat and pay with our own money. Bench, Kamiseta, Bayo opened on the apparels floor and prices on the food floor were adjusted accordingly.

Last year, a steak house with that classy Rockwell ambience but with reasonably-priced steaks opened on the Concourse Level (what we call the *sosi* food court). The name of the place is Myron's, and it is by far one of the best food additions to the Plant, especially because Power Plant is quite the Friday-night-movie mall. For the longest time, when asked where to eat at the Plant, especially if you're on a date... there was just Mati, Mati and Mati. The restaurants at the food level just don't quite spell romantic. (If your kind of romance needs a setting, that is.)

Food Al Pacino-style: Rib Eye with Foie Gras

Enter Myron's. I had always passed up this restaurant because, quite frankly, it looks a bit intimidating, a little too highbrow. The name alone looks like it must be announced, like there should be a "Sir" before it. But lately, they've developed a more welcoming atmosphere. The menu now has pictures (which always help!) that will convince you to sit down and at least try out the spread. And once you're seated, you realize that Myron's is not so intimidating after all.

First of all, they play Michael Buble and Rod Stewart. When these guys are crooning standards to you, your heart will inevitably melt, wherever you are. A drop of love via Stewart is always a good way to steal the customer's heart. Secondly, the menu has this huge picture of foie gras on steak staring you in the face the way Al Pacino does that look with his eyes. It has you possessed. And you find yourself ordering not the Paolo (5 oz US Certified Angus Rib Eye of Beef) nor the Louie (8 oz.) but the Myron's (14 oz), complete with the foie gras. It's the pictures, it's those eyes. Same goes with the wagyu burger, whose description on the menu reads, "The Ultimate Third-of-a-Pound Wagyu Burger."

Fortunately for Myron's, the pictures deliver (Pacino can't fail.) The steak is juicy and tender as it should be. But then again, with Angus rib eye, how can you fail? You may chance upon a steak that has a tad excess fat, but the owners are particular and the waiters so well-trained that you just need to give them a heads up and they will come back with your specifications. The burger is also a winner. But then at P320, it should be. It's huge, juicy, packed. I liked it even better than the one at Kublai's Rock (see **SIM** archives on inquirer.net).

On my other visits I was able to resist the Pacino eyes and had the fish. The salmon is presented simply wrapped in cabbage but made tasty with what I discover on the menu is "vermouth beurre blanc" (I've learned it's a classic butter sauce with wine or dry vermouth). I am told that it is a hit among those on a diet. I prefer, though, the lapu lapu that I tried on another occasion, which is presented with "a mild green curry sauce." I liked its play on the sauce.

But Myron's is not just a great steak house. The desserts are a pleasant surprise as well. I later learned that the pastry chef of this restaurant is Monique Papa-Eugenio. I had the pleasure of a conversation with Monique over a year ago at the Salcedo Market and learned then that she had trained (and become friends, ahem!) with *the* Jacques Torres. I think Torres would be proud, but Monique's works here are not just an offshoot of her training from him but of her own laudable creativity as well. The chocolate mousse is presented in a cocktail glass and with candied orange peel, a nice bitter touch. Her chocolate volcano cake is dark and rich and the mantecado ice cream on top gives it extra phases of delight. My favorite though is the Old Fashioned Bread Pudding with Dark Caramel Ice Cream. The pudding alone is exquisite, with a creamy, chewy texture that allows your spoon to glide down it; and when the hot caramel sauce is poured on top of the not-so-sweet caramel ice cream atop the pudding, wow ... you'll find yourself in heaven.

Moral of the story? Don't be intimidated by highbrow names. Myron's steaks range only between P495 and P1650; the fish swim around the range of P500 and desserts around P150. And it's useless to ignore the pictures. Just when you think you're out, they pull you back in. •

FEATURE

Faces of Forgotten Ancestors

By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Tommy Hafalla

In his striking images of the Cordillera people, Tommy Hafalla not only travels through time but also freezes it for future generations

TOMMY Hafalla's first dream was of flight.

The Baguio-born and -bred photographer, who has since won acclaim for his painstaking photo-documentation of the rapidly-changing way of life of the Cordillera people, had originally wanted to become an aircraft engineer. In fact, he had already finished his Aviation Engineering course at FEATI and was on his first day of work at a charter air company when he was struck by a realization.

"I looked at my *pasiking* (Cordillera backpack) and thought, 'what am I doing here?'" he recalls.

Hafalla lost no time, and took the next bus home to Baguio. Not long after, he joined a mountaineering expedition to Mt. Pulag, where he was awestruck by the beauty of the landscape.

"I realized I had been missing a lot all these years," he says. "I wanted to capture the landscape of the area where I grew up, but since I didn't know how to draw, or even write about what I saw, I decided to try photography."

With a borrowed camera, Hafalla taught himself the basics, and was soon running with a clique of Baguio-based photographers that included Wig Tysmans and Boy Yñiguez.

"I started shooting landscape; but later I thought, 'why not the people?,'" he says. "Like the American Indians, the way of life of the indigenous people of the Cordillera is fast disappearing. So I began documenting the people and their life, as well as the landscape around them, until I got into living what they were doing. It became a personal mission."

The sage says: when the student is ready, the master will appear. Indeed, in 1983, while working as a gaffer with a film crew documenting the hinterlands of Ifugao, Hafalla

(continued on page 12)

Subjects Turn Shooters

Models belong in front of the camera not behind it. Good bone structure and perfect proportions seem wasted when kept—literally—in the dark room. Fortunately, photography, a predominantly male industry, has managed to produce some outstanding female photographers. But rare still is the talented model-photographer. Why would anyone prefer calculating light meters, checking aperture openings and scouting locations to sitting pretty or these days "looking fierce." **SIM** asked three of Manila's model-photographers: why?

JoanBitagcol

By Bitagcol as photographer

Bitagcol as model

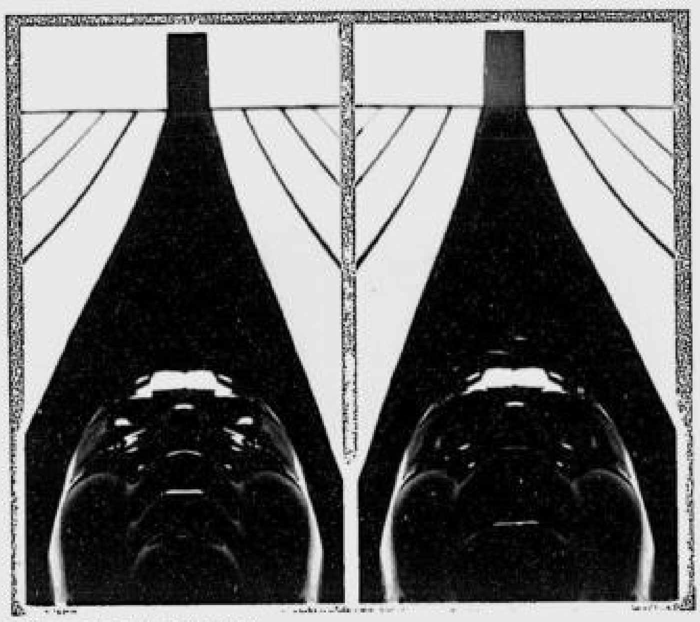
What made you shift from modelling to photography?
I started on a whim because I was looking for a new hobby. Now it takes up most of my time.

What are the rewards of being behind the camera compared to being in front?
Being more in control, being able to see the "whole picture."

What makes a subject a good portrait?
There are no good or bad subjects. There are just subjects I am more interested in than others.

Best tips on taking portraits?
Make your subject feel relaxed. •

SaraBlack



"Chocolate Nightmare"

Black

What made you shift from modelling to photography?
I actually started training to be a photographer when modelling just plopped on my lap. While I was apprenticing, I thought it was a good opportunity to make some money to kickstart my career, since (photographic) equipment is so expensive.

What are the rewards of being behind the camera compared to being in front of it?
Being in front of the camera, you participate in the photographer's vision; being behind it, you execute YOUR own vision. It's much more rewarding creatively.

From your experience as both model and photographer, what factors make a subject a good portrait?
Subjects are easier to shoot when they are less self-conscious about themselves, when they put more trust in you that you'll make a great photograph.

Any tips on taking great portraits?
Know when to push your subject and when to hold back. Be sensitive! •

Subjects Turn Shooters (from page 7)

Belle Daza

NoelleHernandez

What made you shift from modelling to photography?

I've always been interested in photography. Modeling simply made my interest grow and provided me with the necessary connections in the industry. Using these connections, one thing led to the other, and I ended up apprenticing under well-known fashion and advertising photog Xander Angeles.

What are the rewards of being behind the camera compared to being in front of it?

I find that being behind the camera is more challenging and interesting. It's not as easy as it looks and there is a lot of problem-solving involved. It gets me thinking so every session is a learning process. I also learn things about myself—tastes, preferences, and so on. It has helped me keep an open mind. Best of all, I like seeing the final image, when I'm able to immortalize that one precious moment.

What makes a subject a good portrait?

Every subject can be one; it's just a matter of finding what it is that makes that person interesting and capturing it.

Best tips on taking portraits?
Get to know the subject before the shoot. Allow yourselves to get comfortable with each other, so you'd discover what's interesting about your subject. It makes the whole process smoother. Pre-visualizing helps a lot too.

WigTysmans

Tysmans

"INTIMACY," says Wig Tysmans "is the key element to capturing the soul of a person. A good portrait is one that shows the character and personality of the sitter, and combined with good artistic composition and richness in texture, one will achieve a fine portrait."

Although better-known for his nudes and fashion work, Wig Tysman's real forte is portraiture—in fact, one might argue that many of his nudes and his fashion photographs are portraits in disguise.

Tysmans pursued photography after finishing a degree in architecture, but his early influences were painters: modernists such as Roberto Chabet and especially Lee Aguinaldo whose works exhibited a zen-like simplicity and straightforwardness that Tysmans sought to emulate in his photographs. **Eric S. Caruncho**

Donita Rose

Text and photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

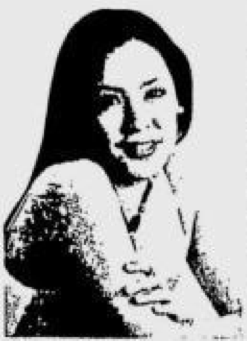
Face to Face Encounters

Getting that perfect portrait takes more than a high-tech camera. Here are some tips that a veteran photojournalist swears by

"WE are endlessly fascinated by people and the way they look, hoping to see in their faces some hint of their character, what makes them what they are, or simply to know them better. Celebrities, ordinary people, the young and old, rich and poor—all are subjects for portraits.

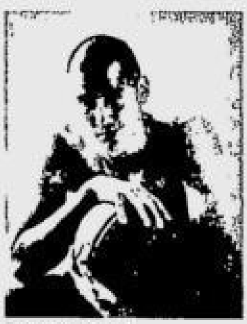
"A photojournalist needs to master some basic techniques and skills to make portraits that will interest viewers and hold their attention. A few simple tricks can transform the straight-on head shot, often called a 'mug shot,' into something more profound that offers an insight into the character of the subject."

Here are some tips in making portraits more appealing.



Cindy Kurleto

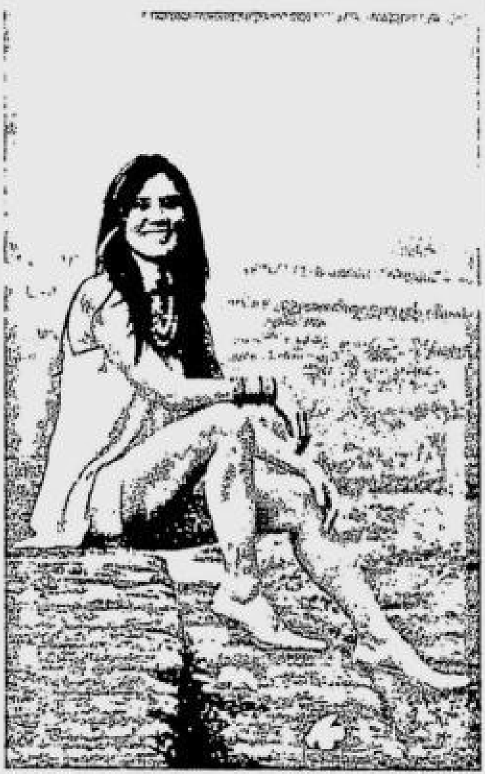
1. Get your subjects to turn one shoulder towards the camera so that you are shooting at an angle. It often makes sense to get subjects to do this with each shoulder in turn. Getting the subject to sit down often makes them more comfortable. Folding their arms or putting one hand up to their chin or mouth can help too.



Rich Alvarez

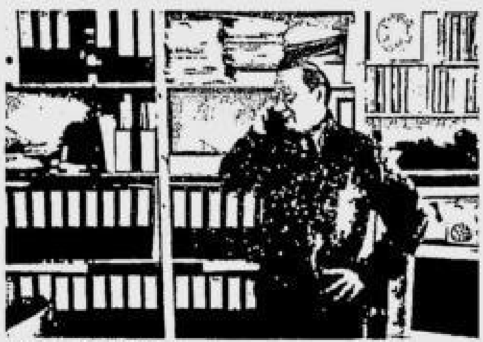
2. Make use of light to make your picture interesting. Window light is often good when coming from the side, and gives a darker background that will make the subject stand out.

3. Be constantly on the look-out for people with interesting or powerful faces. A tight head shot in a photo essay can be very powerful way to humanize the story and make the viewer identify with the people involved.



Lulu Tan-Gan

4. When shooting portraits outdoors, try to avoid having the subject look towards the sun as they often squint or close their eyes, which is very unflattering. It is better to have the sun over their shoulder or to the side, and to use flash or a reflector to fill in the shadows.



Jose Ma. Sison

Apart from the head shot, or "mug shot," there is the so-called environmental portrait, in which subjects are placed in a scene that says something about their life or job. This is probably the most common editorial portrait. It generally involves using some objects to tell viewers about the person in the portrait, or a location that explains who they are, for example a doctor in a white coat by the operating table, a lawyer in court, or a taxi driver in his cab. **Source: World Press Photo seminars**

Ernie U. Sarmiento is a second-generation photojournalist, having taken up the craft after his father. He is chief photographer of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER and has won many awards for his lens work, including the 1988 Kodak Sports Photography contest.

DeniseWeldon

Photographs by Denise Weldon

John Gaddi, Sonny Tanchangco and Josie Darang for "Malate: A Matter of Taste" by the LJC Group

"WHAT makes a good portrait?

A good portrait is an image that captures an aspect of the individual. It is often said that the success of a portrait depends greatly on the rapport between photographer and subject and that more time might ensure a better portrait. And yet I have found that some of my most memorable portraits were taken even within a very short period of time. Truth be told, few are those individuals who love to be photographed, and would thus enjoy spending a lot of time in front of the camera.

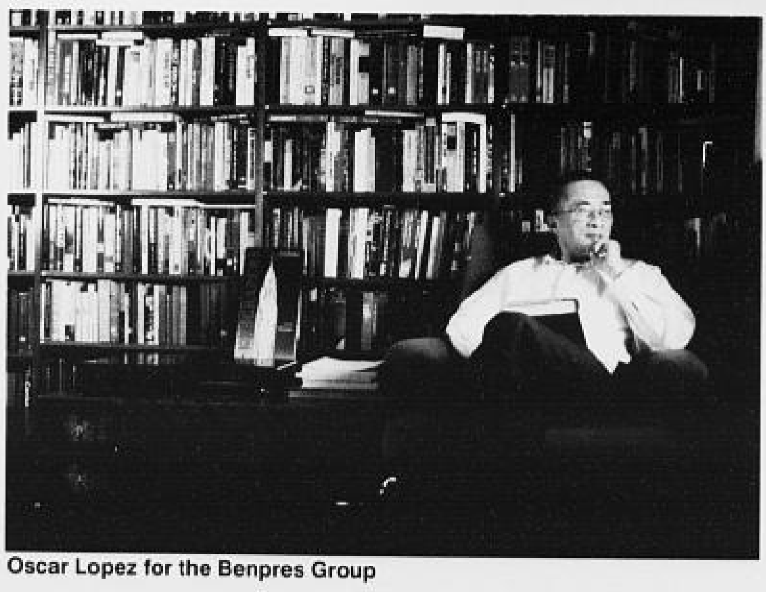
While many people can take pictures of other people, portraits call for one to be sensitive to an individual's personal space. In a split of a second, the layers people typically carry slip off, and during the brief encounter, one can capture the spirit of a subject.

Portraiture is fascinating in its many forms and applications: from advertising campaigns to annual reports, wedding albums to holiday snaps. Wonderful stories are revealed in a portrait, sometimes simple, sometimes complex, much like the people in them.
What I love about portraiture and am most grateful for, is that in the comfort of space and time, I am able to witness the beauty, strength, frailty and humanity of people of all ages and all walks of life." •

Denise Weldon is a Manila-based photographer who has lived in Asia for over 35 years and in the Philippines for 11. She creates conceptual or client-briefed photographic work for advertising, editorial, and corporate clients, as well as for private commissions, exhibits and special projects. Some of her work are found in the coffee table books "Chinese Filipinos," "Malate: A Matter of Taste," and "Pinoy Pop Culture." Weldon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, with a Major in Fine Arts: Photography, and Minors in Art History and Spanish.

Maja Olivares Co

Weldon and daughter Carolina



Oscar Lopez for the Benpres Group

Maurice Arcache for Philippine Tatler

Photographs by Isa Lorenzo

Isa Lorenzo

Lorenzo

Tonyboy Cojuangco

Carlos Celdran

FOR Isa Lorenzo, balance is essential. That is why, she says, "The perfect portrait photograph is a balance between the truth, and the photographer not having it any other way."

Her own life reflects this precious balance. She had initially planned on becoming a doctor—in fact, completing her medical studies at the University of the Philippines, passing the board and everything. "I was even president of my batch," she reveals.

But the lure of the lens beckoned, and Lorenzo shifted gears and completely changed direction, going after and eventually getting a Master of Arts in Media Studies and Photography from the New School University-Parsons School of Design in New York City.

After her work was exhibited abroad and locally, she founded the Silverlens Gallery in Makati City, which exclusively showcases photography. Knowing how difficult it is for photographers to exhibit their work, Lorenzo went a step further and established the Silverlens Foundation, which provides funding for photography-based art projects.

She continues to practice her beloved craft, with her latest exhibit, "Isa Lorenzo, 001," running until September 7 at Silverlens and featuring striking images of her mother's childhood home. Her selected portraits, Lorenzo explains, are not necessarily her best, "but they are my most recent favorites." Ever the seer of the remarkable in the everyday, Lorenzo also included an image of her beloved Yorkshire terrier, Tiger the wise dog, which she explains "is a current absolute favorite photograph." **Ruel S. De Vera**

Tiger the Wise Dog

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				6		3		
		5	7					
	7			5	2			6
	4					1		
6		1				8		2
		9					3	
7			5	2			8	
					4	2		
		4		8				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/19

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Answer to previous puzzle

5	4	7	9	3	8	2	6	1
2	9	6	7	1	4	3	5	8
8	3	1	2	6	5	4	9	7
3	5	4	8	2	1	6	7	9
1	7	2	6	9	3	5	8	4
9	6	8	5	4	7	1	3	2
6	2	5	1	7	9	8	4	3
4	8	9	3	5	2	7	1	6
7	1	3	4	8	6	9	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Faces of Forgotten Ancestors (from page 6)

was asked to drop by Sagada in the Mountain Province to deliver a box of photo paper to a photographer living there.

The photographer turned out to be Eduardo Masferre. The son of a Spanish soldier and his Kankanaey wife, Masferre had been documenting the people of his native Cordillera since 1933, when he acquired his first Kodak Graphlex camera. Much of what we know visually about the Kalinga, the Ifugao, the Bontoc, the Kankanaey and the other tribes of the Northern Philippines we owe to Masferre. Now, of course, Masferre is recognized as the father of Philippine ethnographic documentary. In 1983, however, he was still living in semi-obscurity, printing photographs from his old negatives.

For Hafalla, it seemed he was meeting an ancestor. "When I saw his photographs, it was like, 'Whoa! Someone has gone before me.' It encouraged me to continue to document the changes that have happened through the years."

Hafalla met Masferre a second time in 1988, on a return trip from Kalinga. Masferre asked if the Kalinga still wore their traditional dress, and seemed pleased when Hafalla said they did.

"He seemed happy that someone was continuing to document the tribes," Hafalla recalls. In a way, a torch must have been passed. Masferre died in 1995, but Hafalla continues to photograph the rapidly changing culture of the Cordilleras, himself becoming one of the bearers of that culture. There is a seat of honor for him in many a *dap-ay* (village council), and he has become an emissary of sorts between the tribes and the mainstream culture.

Today he works out of his studio in Sagada, voyaging deep into the hinterlands most of the year to take photographs, and during the off-season conducting photography workshops for the locals so they can do their own photo documentation. He is also working on what he hopes will be a "Living Museum" in Sagada—a task that has become all the more urgent now that Sagada is no longer the remote outpost it used to be in the '70s, what with cable TV and Wi-Fi internet cafes threatening to swallow it in the global culture masher.

"There have been a lot of misrepresentations of Cordillera culture," he says. "One of the most common is the *bulol*, which is always referred to as a 'rice god' or 'guardian of the granary.' But it is actually a 'pain body,' to which you transfer sickness through a ritual. So if you're an Ifugao and you know that a *bulol* has been used, you won't touch it for fear of catching whatever sickness has been transferred to it."

The antique business would collapse, Hafalla suggests, if more people knew that the *bulol* was ritually "unclean." Conversely, there is much that mainstream Filipino society can learn from the culture of the Cordilleras. "The simplicity of the way of life in the Cordilleras," he suggests, offers one answer to the age-old question of Filipino identity. •

estancabigas.c

Hafalla with the misunderstood *bulol*.

We've Got You Covered...

Or Not

By Leica R. Carpo

"NEVER judge a book by its cover" makes sense, but it definitely does not apply to magazines.

"The cover makes half of the magazine's impact," says Marc Atlan, Art Director of BIG: Los Angeles VIP Special. "A bad cover is barely noticeable, diluted in the crowd of other publications at a newsstand, (but) a good cover jumps out at you. A good cover should obviously also sustain a certain longevity."

Editors can spend months, even years, just envisioning the perfect cover. How many creative directors today are still attempting to create their own version of Vanity Fair's August 1991 bold and brilliant cover of then upcoming star Demi Moore who, after the success of the movie "Ghost," was photographed by Annie Leibovitz gloriously naked and luminously pregnant?

Conceptualized, dissected and agonized over, there is no turf more contested then the cover of a hot title. Who decides what makes the cut and what winds up on the cutting room floor? What carries more weight: fabulous good looks or a brilliant story? What makes one cover fly off the stands while another sits and gathers cobwebs? Which of our local magazines can approximate the Rolling Stones' landmark cover on the January 22, 1981 issue which had a naked John Lennon hugging a fully clothed Yoko Ono, which Annie Leibovitz shot mere hours before he was murdered? How does one judge "cover worthiness?" Can we assume the FHM standard of "sexy and in the news" as a "must or bust" formula? Is there even a requirement for covers to appeal to the reader in a deeper, more intellectual level?

The last two, avers Thelma San Juan of ABS-CBN publications, are mandatory for Metro magazine. " For a good cover, it is important to have both a good photo and a good copy."

What else helps a magazine cover make that leap from disposable to collectible?

"Our most memorable cover was on the December 2002 issue, when we had Diana Zubiri literally stop traffic in a red bikini on the Edsa Flyover, says Allan Madrilejos, editor in chief of FHM. "That cover generated news both for its aesthetics and for the photographic stunt we pulled."

With such diverse views, **SIM** asks: What, who, why, how does one make a memorable magazine cover? Here's what industry insiders say:

PHILIPPINE TATLER
The Most Guarded Place in the Country
Al Pacino one of the World's Greatest Actors
King
Zobel
12 WOMEN

Anton San Diego, editor, Tatler Magazine (Philippine Edition)
"Conceptualizing and producing a cover that stands out is really no mean feat, but it is achievable. A great cover is one that can stand the test of time; where the effort that went behind its creation is discernible (e.g. the Vanity Fair covers of Africa, Hollywood and Music Issues); also it is a 'must' that the theme or subject is both current and exclusive.

"A good cover must have the basics: good photography, the right look (i.e. fashion, hair make-up), and right subject. It's also important to have a vision for the cover and the cover story. Editors need to know what they want to achieve even before the shoot. When viewing the photographs during post-production, it's best to keep an open mind. When in doubt ask for advice from your team; no one has a monopoly on creativity. Also it's best that once you've chosen your photo not to go overboard with Photoshop, cover blurbs etc.

"The Philippine Tatler is celebrating its sixth anniversary this year, which means we've done 60 covers. It's a tall order to choose just one most memorable cover. Some of our covers are memorable because of what they represent. Take our first cover, which had the 'First Daughters,' namely Luli Arroyo, Jackie Ejercito-Lopez, Imee Marcos and Jo Ramos. Putting them together for one shoot was really exciting. It was a coup! Another magazine cover that actually placed us on the map and in the consciousness of Filipinos and of the world was our first anniversary cover, which had President Arroyo and her then-Cabinet members, posing *a la* 'Men in Black.' If you ask me, my favorite covers are always the current ones. I know this sounds like I'm playing safe, but it's true. The Philippine Tatler has its own look and feel that is instantly recognizable. I believe it's best to keep to that design and theme and tweak it a bit to suit the current cover."

marie claire
FIRST ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL
Celebrating A Year of Style & Substance
"The Story That Changed My Life!"
PINOY & PROUD!
• Rafe Totengco
• Mally Roncal
• Nicole Scherzinger of The Pussycat Dolls
Dress Impr
Sophisticated Gray
Pants with Panache
Military Strategy
Layers of Chic
LUCY TORRES GOMEZ
"I am my own woman!"
Meet Our 10 Women of the World 2006

Myrza C. Sizon, editor in chief, Marie Claire; Editorial Director, Summit Media
"The Marie Claire cover girl must reflect the magazine's personality: Style + Substance. Of course, she must be beautiful and strong, but she must be more than just a pretty face. She has to be a woman of character, substance and depth, with a point of view, an opinion and a sense of humor. She must radiate self-confidence

and positive energy. Naturally, to be a successful cover (i.e., to sell!) she must be a woman whom readers know well, relate to and identify with and aspire to emulate. Like our tag line says, she must be: BEAUTIFUL. SMART. REAL.

"Our most successful cover was Lucy Torres-Gomez on Marie Claire's First Anniversary cover. It was brave, bold and brash considering Lucy's sweet image, but she let us take over and give her a radical image change. So we cut her hair into layers and gave her bangs, put her in a very low-cut Gucci metallic dress, and painted her lips blood-red. Even her nails were a dark vermillion! It was a risk and not exactly ideal when it comes to magazine covers but the issue sold extremely well, with her fans and admirers even trooping to Hairworks, Marie Claire in tow, asking for that same haircut!

"We also love our July 2007 cover with the sexy, new Judy Ann Santos. The feedback has been overwhelming, and it's selling like crazy! The timing in Judy Ann's life and career was perfect plus the Marie Claire team did a fantastic job. She looks incredible."

Harper's
BAZAAR
Enter the Era
of Elegance

Melissa Overton, creative director of Design and Marketing Ian Schrager Company. Overton considers Fabien Baron, award winning creative director of French Vogue and former creative director of Italian Vogue, Interview and Harper's Bazaar, as her mentor, having worked at Baron & Baron from 1992-1999.

"A good cover needs an elegant type, a stunning photo, space. Nothing ruins a cover more than clutter. When it comes to magazine covers, less is more. It may be a cliché and an overused phrase, but it's the total truth. My most memorable cover was the Harper's Bazaar, September 1992 issue. It was the first cover by Fabien Baron for the magazine's revamp. He was then already known for his stunning covers, but this one in particular put him on the map and became an inspiration for other publications. It gave the magazine new life.

Preview
YOUR ULTIMATE
GUIDE
ICONIC BAGS
the new year's
NEW LOOK

Pauline Suaco Juan, editor in chief, Preview Magazine
"First and foremost, it's the cover girl that makes for a good cover. After that, everything—the styling, art direction, background, cover lines and the color of the masthead—has to work together. A cover basically sells the magazine. The biggest no-no is putting a cover girl your readers can't relate to, or, worse, hate.

"Judy Ann's January 2007 Preview cover was a bestseller for us and it was the element of surprise, of seeing a glowing Juday in a fashion-forward patent mini dress, that made it such a hit. While people knew that she had lost weight, no one had celebrated that image, and that's what we achieved. The June 2007 issue with Celine Lopez on the cover was also a best-seller. Again, I believe it was the element of surprise. Preview had been doing celebs one after the other, and suddenly we had the Philippines' favorite fashionista on the cover. It was a breath of fresh air and something our readers responded to.

"At Preview, we like to delight and surprise the reader. The cover is creative director Vince Uy's primary responsibility. Every month he sits down with the cover stylist and nails a 'look,' usually one of the season's hottest trends. Everything from hair and makeup to clothes, shoes, and accessories, to props and background is discussed."

GLOBAL ASSAULT. 75 REASONS WHY FHM ROCKS THE WORLD
CRISPA DUELS TOYOTA!
FOUR ACES!
75
EXCLUSIVE!
Legendary!
GLOBAL ASSAULT. 75 REASONS WHY FHM ROCKS THE WORLD

Allan Madrilejos, editor in chief, FHM
"A memorable cover depends on showbiz buzz, what our readers want to see, and timing. I don't mess with a winning formula: sexy, in the news, and great styling. We like to seduce our readers into buying the magazine with both our cover and the promise of what's inside reflected in our cover lines. We also use the 'buddy-buddy' approach in addressing our readers—we don't talk down to them. We don't try to become too experimental because we create the magazine for our readers. One surefire way to ruin a cover is to put something that does not reflect the readers' interest—because at the end of the day for FHM, the reader is KING.

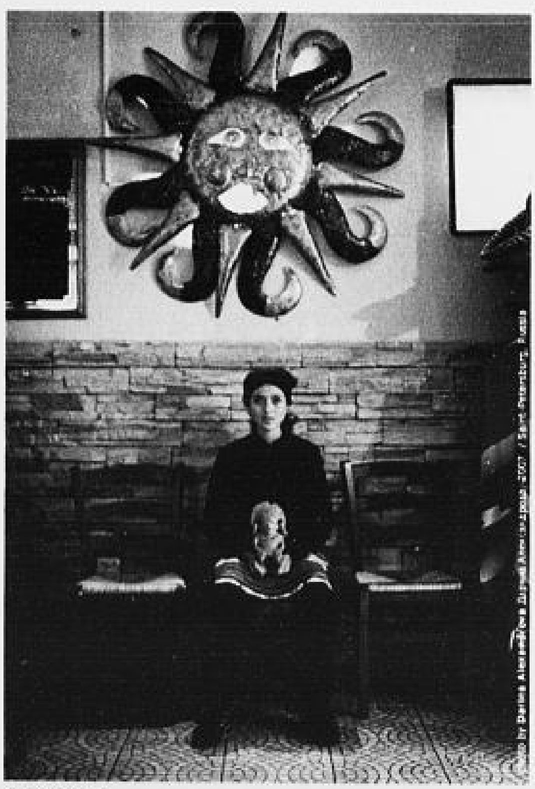
"Our most memorable cover was that of Diana Zubiri in December 2002, and our 75th anniversary issue where we had multi-covers that featured Katrina Halili, Assunta de Rossi and Francine Prieto—you had to collect all three..." •

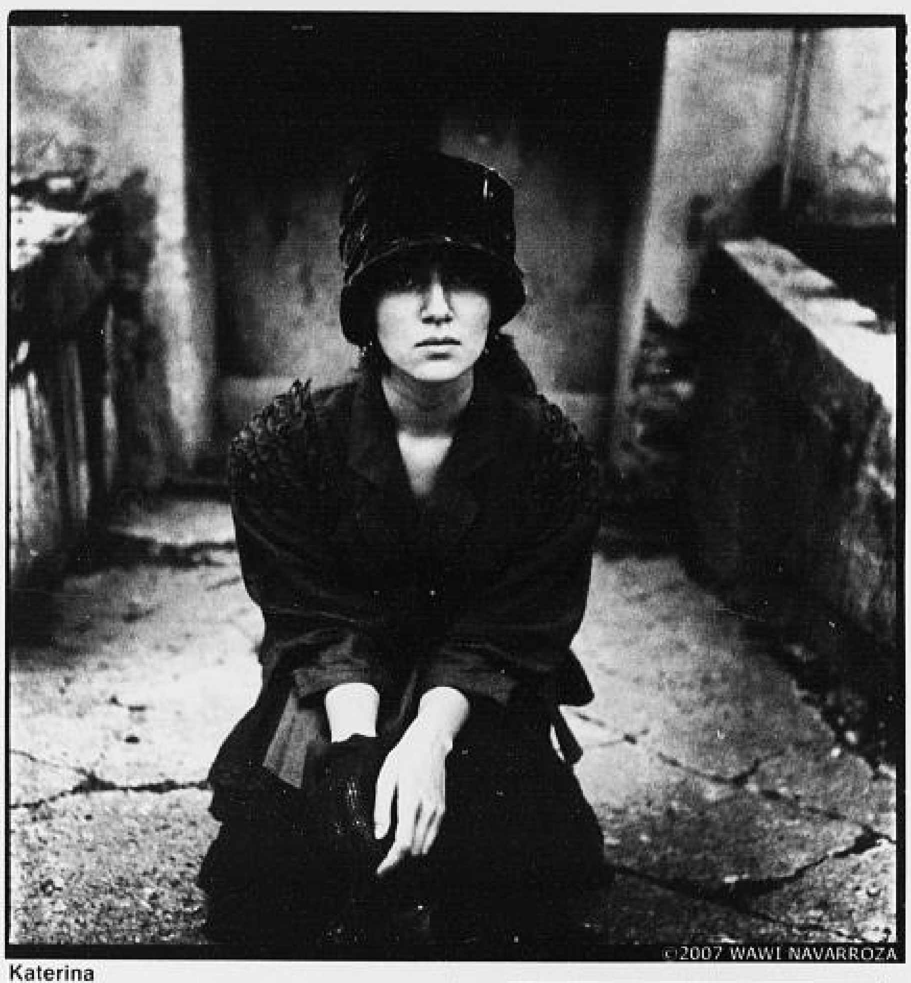
Photographs by Wawi Navarroza

WawiNavarroza

"FOR my portraits, I always know I've made a breakthrough when I get to record that 'selfness' in the person, that elusive glimpse of naked honesty. In general, I'm not interested in depicting frozen gestures and manufactured pretenses of 'the pose du jour.' I much prefer it when the sitter is just there, just BE-ing. It's quiet, private, almost solemn. I get goose bumps when I'm able to see through that tiny fraction of a moment when the sitter is relaxed, at ease, and in possession of him or herself—and I'm able to record it through my camera. It's such a fleeting moment. But it reveals so much. You see this person—alive and unique—through the lens and there is something timeless about this creature. It's beautiful.

"In my portraits, you will notice that there is an awareness. The sitter is aware of me and the camera. I, meanwhile, look at my subject lovingly through the lens. I like it that way because there is a collaboration, an exchange of trust. There is a submission on the sitter's part, a vulnerability, but there's also a sensitivity on the part of the photographer. It's something we both agreed on. There is a consciousness that we are both present then and there. True to the nature of photography, we—the sitter and the photographer—have conspired on bearing witness to an encapsulated fragment of time with its cargo of emotions, frame of mind, and appearances at that specific moment when the photograph was taken. And it shows. This way, all my portraits are intimate. A good portrait is always sincere." •


Navarroza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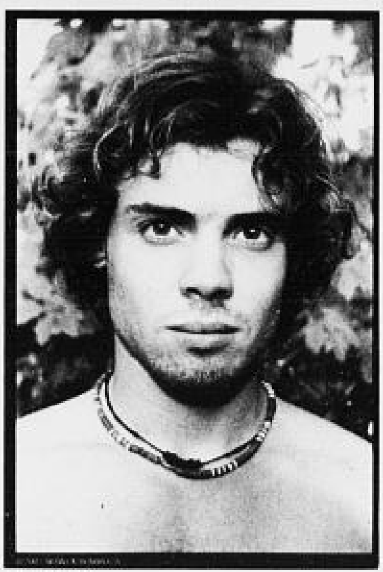
Joshua

Wawi Navarroza is a full-time artist whose works have been awarded here and abroad. Some of her images appear in the art book "Delve: An Exploration of Visual Culture" (New York), and in coffee table books "Epson Imaging Exposition Best Images 2005" (Manila) and Aurora Borealis' "Noorderlicht: Another Asia" (Netherlands).

Navarroza has recently been chosen finalist in the Ateneo Art Awards 2007 for outstanding work on "Saturnine: A Collection of Portraits, Creatures, Glass & Shadow," and was a guest artist at the Fotomasterskie Petersburgskie in St. Petersburg, Russia. Her most recent exhibit was a collection of new works titled "Santa Frida: 100 Years Between Us" in homage to Mexican painter Frida Kahlo at the Instituto Cervantes de Manila.

Navarroza holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, Major in Communication Arts-Photography from De La Salle University, Manila, and was mentored by contemporary artist/curator/educator Judy Sibayan.

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